



STUMPED

Anger as trees chopped down in park



PAGE 4

NEW BOSS

Chief executive will face hard decisions



PAGE 11

Visitors flock to borough's attractions

VISITOR numbers at Dudley's three biggest tourist attractions are up by almost a quarter, as work continues on the £10.1 million regeneration of Castle Hill.

That is aimed at attracting thousands more people to major attractions Dudley Zoo, Dudley Canal Trust and the Black Country Living Museum.

Dudley's tourism chiefs welcomed the news as a boost for the whole of the Black Country.

The biggest increase was at Dudley Zoo, where 290,000 people passed through the gates in 2014. This was up by 25 per cent on 2013's figures.

Investment

At Dudley Canal Trust, there was a 23 per cent rise for the last quarter of 2014 compared with the same period in 2013. Visitor numbers for the year were up by 10 per cent.

At the Black Country Living Museum there were 271,467 people visiting the attraction in 2014, 31,000 more than in 2013. This is a rise of around 13 per cent.

Council leader Pete Lowe said: "These latest figures go to show what impact the multi-million pound investment in the area is having on three world-class visitor attractions."

Adventures to cost more

PARENTS in Dudley will have to pay more money to send their children to an outdoor activities centre under council plans to meet rising food and fuel bills.

It is the fourth increase in four years for visitors to Astley Burf Outdoor Adventure Centre in Worcestershire.

If the plans are approved, fees for one week's stay at the centre near Stourport will rise from £105 to £107, a four day visit will go up from £85 to £87 and a weekend trip will increase by £1 to £55.

TWO SCHOOLS TO BE REBUILT

TWO primary schools are to be rebuilt thanks to a Government grant.

Visiting the area, schools minister Nick Boles revealed that Huntingtree Primary School in Halesowen and Ridgewood High School in Wollaston are to benefit from the £6 billion revamp scheme.

Mr Boles confirmed that around £2bn will be invested in rebuilding or refurbishing buildings at 277 schools across England, under the second phase of the scheme.

Around 260 schools are already being refurbished under the first phase of the programme, including 22 across the West Midlands, bringing the total number of schools to receive a revamp to 537 and 49 across the region. This is on top of the £18bn already invested in school buildings since 2010.

Mr Boles went to Huntingtree this week with Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris.

Others getting funding include Blue Coat Academy in Walsall, Abbey Infant School in Smethwick, Yew Tree Primary, Great Barr School and several schools in Staffordshire.

Giveaway

Labour accused the Conservatives of using the announcement as a pre-election giveaway to boost votes.

Huntingtree Primary School was built in the 1950s and currently has 450 pupils. While visiting the school, Mr Boles said: "This building is shockingly bad and a replacement is overdue. It is clearly not fit for purpose."

He continued: "The key thing is unlike any previous Government we have gone through the process of assessing every single school

By Daniel Wainwright

in the country. We wrote to every school and as a result of that we could spend money on school buildings urgently in need of replacement."

"Each school used to have its own architect but now there is a range of designs for them to pick from. It means more new buildings for the money."

"What people like the Government to do is put in enough money so there are good schools for their children. But it's taxpayers' money, so it has to be spent as wisely as possible."

"There was huge waste under the previous Priority Schools Building Programme which we cancelled. There were huge gleaming palaces going up when there were buildings like this, which has been here since the early 50s, and had nothing done to it."

Huntingtree headteacher Mrs Stevie Parkes said: "I am absolutely thrilled that we are going to have a building fit for the 21st century."

James Morris MP, said: "This school has obviously got some quite dilapidated buildings and this decision is great for the pupils of Huntingtree. The redevelopment of the school will help improve education for all of them."

Town branches out with greenery



Eve O'Connor, right, and Amanda Hodgetts with the last tree planted in the town centre

HALESOWEN has turned over a new leaf with more than a hundred new trees planted as part of a community project.

The work has taken place during the winter months in preparation for this year's Halesowen in Bloom event. The final tree has now been placed in the town centre.

As part of the project, 100 trees have been planted at the town's pocket park in Rumbow.

Five beech trees have also been planted on the Earls traffic island, with the work funded by engineering firm Sandvik.

Bluebell bulbs have also been planted in the area.

Officials said a range of activities were planned to spruce up the town, including a series of litter picks and a fresh lick of paint for the town's car parks.

Pleased

Town centre manager Eve O'Connor said: "A total of 107 new trees have been planted around the town and we are very pleased with the results."

"The 100 trees planted in the pocket park were provided free after we applied to the Woodland Trust. Sandvik provided the funding for the beech trees."

The trees in the park were given by the Woodland Trust as a memorial marking the centenary of the First World War and were planted by members of the Earls High School History Society.

Traders pay price for EDL protest

HUNDREDS of thousands of pounds was lost in trade as the English Defence League descended on Dudley town centre.

Police and council chiefs were also left counting the cost of Saturday's protest with around £25,000 spent on barriers and cleaning up.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said: "Roads were closed, shops had to shut and staff lost a day's pay. I don't think that's right, especially when times are so tough."

The town centre was deserted as more than 600 EDL members came from across the country. The potential threat — based on the trouble that broke out at a similar demo in the town in 2010 — forced West Midlands Police to draft in hundreds of extra officers from as far away as Wales.

Protesters gathered outside the council house on Priory Road after marching from King Street, where a 45-minute demonstration was held. The EDL were kept apart from around 50 members of Unite Against Fascism holding a counter-protest in Castle Street.

Chief Superintendent Chris Johnson confirmed that 29 demonstrators had been arrested for breaching the peace. Most were released without charge.

● Picture — Page 3

Hero's statue back on show

THE statue of Dudley's sporting hero Duncan Edwards has been returned to the town's market place.

The statue was in storage during the £6.7 million redevelopment of the market and has been located in New Street. The England and Manchester United player from the Priory Estate died aged 21, as a result of injuries in the Munich air disaster in February 1958, which claimed the lives of seven of his team mates. The statue will be re-dedicated.

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CONTENTS	
Peter Rhodes	4
Feature	6
Letters	7
Memory Lane	17
What's On	22
TV Guide	23 - 25
Brain Gym	26
Property	27
Motoring	30
Sport	39 & 40

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MP takes police protest to the top

A 2,000 signature petition against the closure of the public counter at Dudley Police Station has been handed in to Home Office ministers. It was launched by Dudley North MP Ian Austin after it was announced in November that Dudley Police Station would close to the public. Mr Austin, who has also secured a meeting with Policing Minister Mike Penning, has raised

concerns about the move and says there is 'huge opposition' in the town to the plans. The public counter at Dudley is one of three in the borough and one of 27 across the West Midlands which will close under the plans by West Midlands Police aimed at saving £3 million. Front counters at stations in Halesowen and Stourbridge will also shut.

Mr Austin said: "There's huge opposition to these plans in Dudley so I'm pleased that the Policing Minister is meeting me to discuss their concerns. "It is completely unacceptable that Dudley could become the largest town in the country without a police station open to the public. Thousands of local people are backing my campaign because they know

these cuts will mean fewer police on the streets, fewer offenders brought before court and fewer criminals put in jail." West Midlands Police says the proposals to shut front counters follow an independent review, which shows the majority of the public no longer visit stations and instead make phone calls, use the internet or social media to contact officers.

Hospital agency staff cost £600k in a month

MORE than £600,000 was spent on agency staff at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital in just one month, new figures reveal.

The bill for December came as the number of patients attending A&E during the month soared to 8,762, compared with 7,944 in the previous year. Chief executive Paula Clark said the hospital was working to reduce the number of agency workers used to cover staff shortages. She added that it had spent, on average, around £61,000 less each month on agency staff than in the previous financial year.

Pair in court after incident on forecourt

A MAN and a woman have appeared in court charged with trying to steal a car from a garage forecourt in Stourbridge.

A salesman was dragged along as he tried to stop a Ford Focus being taken last Thursday at Stourbridge Motor Company.

Reuben Hylton, aged 24 of Princp Street, Birmingham, was charged with attempted theft and appeared before Birmingham Magistrates Court on Saturday.

He was also charged with 18 other offences dating back to December 8. There are six counts of stealing motor vehicles from forecourts, eight counts of driving while disqualified, two of making off without paying for petrol, one of assault and another charge of breaching an anti-social behaviour order.

Hylton was arrested alongside a 26-year-old Meryl DaCosta, of Boscombe Road, Tulseley. She was charged in connection with the Stourbridge Motor Company offence and a separate crime of robbery in Walsall on January 30.

Hylton was remanded in custody and is due before Birmingham Crown Court on March 20. DaCosta was bailed with strict conditions.

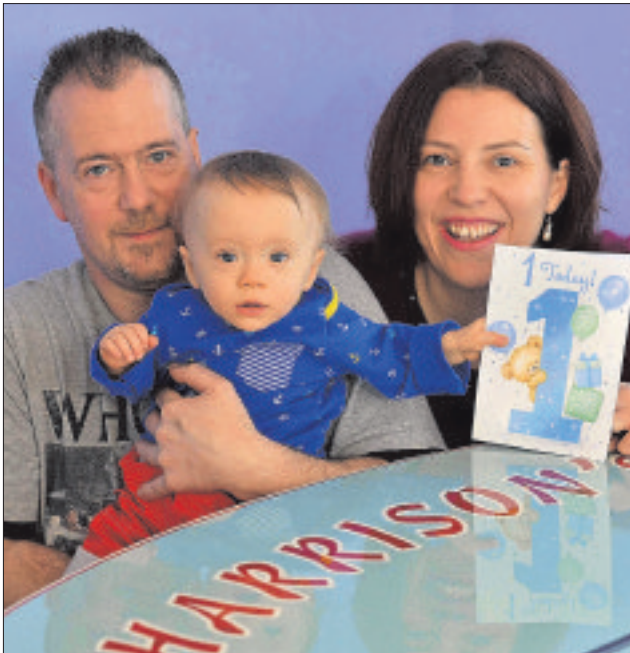
The total spent during December was £603,240, a Freedom of Information request revealed. Of this £265,704 was spent on medical staff and £264,206 on nursing staff. While £39,133 was spent on other clinical workers and £34,197 on non-clinical staff.

Skilled

Ms Clark said: "To make sure patients are safe and cared for by appropriately skilled staff at all times, we sometimes use agency staff to cover staff shortages. "These shortages can come about due to unplanned sickness and short-term vacancies, or the need to open extra beds to cope with peaks in demand.

"Despite an increased number of A&E attendances in December 2014 compared to 2013, we were still able to reduce the amount we spent on agency staffing." The agency staff bill has come under fire from former hospital governor Bill Etheridge, a UKIP Dudley councillor and Euro MP, who said employing agency doctors and nurses was an ineffective use of resources. "The people in charge are on a large amount of money. It would be nice to think they had the skills as would lead to not having to call in the cavalry," he said

Miracle boy's milestone



Harrison Jordan celebrates his first birthday with father Tim and mother Melanie

TINY battler Harrison Jordan has defied the odds to celebrate his first birthday after being born 11 weeks premature.

He weighed just one-and-a-half pounds when he was born on February 3 last year and was not expected to survive. But one year on, he continues to get stronger, crawling around the family home in Ketley Road, Kingswinford, and pulling himself up to his feet. He was all smiles as he received cards and presents from adoring parents Melanie, aged 40, and Tim 45.

Mr Jordan said: "Harrison's doing really well. We could not be happier with the progress he has made. His consultant is also over the moon with how he is developing. It seems whatever obstacle is put in his way he battles through it."

The worst day had been February 11 last year when Harrison had been blessed because he was not expected to survive the night. Mr Jordan added: "It is amazing to see how he has come on in just a year. We call him our little fighter."

Have say on future of health services

HEALTH bosses proposing to create two specialist units at Sandwell General Hospital are launching a public consultation.

The plan by Sandwell Clinical Commissioning Group is to bring emergency surgery and trauma assessment services together at the hospital. The group is also proposing to bring together urgent cardiology services at City Hospital.

Officials say this would happen from spring this year. The move is part of a wider programme by the health and social care organisations in the borough.

Met

It comes as health bosses prepare for the opening the Midland Met Hospital in Smethwick by 2018.

West Bromwich Town Hall hosts an event at 1pm on February 23 and another will be held the same day at the Medical Education Centre Sandwell Hospital, 6pm.

Chairman, Dr Nick Harding, said: "We're confident these improvements will deliver better care for patients, with timely access to treatment and skilled care from specialist teams. I'd encourage everyone in Sandwell and west Birmingham to get involved."

Women will unite in prayer

A PRAYER service, part of the international Women's World Day of Prayer, will be held by the Salvation Army in Cradley Heath.

The service for Dudley and surrounding area will be held at The Salvation Army Church in Meredith Street, Cradley Heath, on March 6 from 2pm.

The service, which aims to unite Christians, has been prepared by the Christian Women of the Bahamas group and the theme is taken from St John's Gospel, chapter 13, verses 1-17.

For more information visit www.wwdp.org.uk

Bumble bird box

A NATURE reserve in Dudley hosts a bird boxing making session during the half term holiday. Bumble Hole, off Windmill End, is holding the event on February 18 between 10.30am and 1.30pm. Youngsters must be accompanied by an adult. Call (01384) 814100 to book.

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Arrest is made after an attack on agent

AN ESTATE agent was attacked at an empty Halesowen house after she received a call from a man claiming she had missed a viewing.

The woman arrived at the property on Cherry Tree Lane, shortly before 3pm on February 2, after the man had said he was waiting outside for her.

The 35-year-old victim entered the house but noticed a man at the back door. As she opened the door she was shoved inside the property and pushed up against the wall.

The man fled after the estate agent fought back. He was described as black, around 5ft 6ins tall and of a stocky build, wearing dark clothing including gloves and a hat.

Officers investigating the assault have been liaising with local businesses and trawling CCTV footage.

A 17-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of assault.

Detective Chief Inspector Chris Hanson, from Force CID, said: "The woman is very shaken by her ordeal but fortunately she was not seriously hurt."

Witnesses can call 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Offices turn into homes

FORMER council offices in Dudley will be going under the hammer.

The properties in Ednam Road are among 12 sites, which have been deemed surplus to requirements by Dudley Council. The two pairs of semi-detached offices have planning permission to be converted into homes. Other buildings being sold by the council include properties in St James's Road and Priory Court.

In total it is hoped 12 sites will be used to create 90 homes and net the authority £467,000 per year savings.

Sweeper collision

AN elderly man was pulled from a car after it collided with a roadsweeper.

An ambulance crew arrived at the scene around 3.20pm on February 4 after the collision on Ketley Road, Kingswinford. The man was taken to Russells Hall hospital suffering chest pains.

Training firm to appeal after damning report

TEACHING at a firm running building apprenticeships in the Black Country and Staffordshire has been branded poor.

Students were left with little prospect of finding a job, according to a damning report. Targeted Training Projects Ltd has 160 students at sites in Kingswinford and Cannock.

Ofsted says the quality of teaching and learning is 'consistently poor' and tutors do not pay enough attention to the apprentices. The firm, which has headquarters in

Brierley Hill, was given the lowest possible rating by the inspectors. It is supposed to set students up for careers in the building industry but inspectors found many struggling to get placements during their course.

Failures

The report lists a catalogue of failures and says major improvements are needed at Stallings Lane, Kingswinford, and at Hemlock Way, Cannock.

Inspector Russell Henry said the propor-

tion of apprentices who successfully complete their course 'is very low' as they spend too little time in actual employment.

"This means that they are unable to develop and consolidate their skills in real-work situations and that opportunities to assess their competence are insufficient."

He found that most apprentices have 'poor attitudes towards learning'. The report also states: "Staff do not set high standards or expectations for their apprentices. The quality of teaching and training

is poor and the planning of learning is inadequate. As a result, the majority of apprentices are unsuccessful in attaining their learning goals."

There were problems with safety in workshops with some apprentices not being supervised using power saws.

General manager Jodie Hawkins said: "We have appealed against the report and don't feel we are in a position to comment while the appeal is in place. I think the fact we are appealing shows we are not happy."

Children's speech centres face cost-cutting shake up

TWO centres supporting children with speech and language difficulties in Dudley will close, under a planned shake up of services.

Parents say they fear their children could be placed into mainstream schools where they 'would not be able to cope'.

From September, Dudley Council is proposing to deliver the specialist service at just one site, Hob Green Primary School in Stourbridge. This would mean centres at St Margaret's at Hasbury Church of England Primary School in Halesowen and Quarry Bank Primary School will close. The changes will see the number of places available drop by eight.

Eight of the 16 children who attend the full-time service at St Margaret's and Quarry Bank will be taken into Hob Green's centre.

Fury

But those not transferred will be placed into either mainstream or special schools, sparking fury among some parents who insist mainstream schools are not a suitable setting.

There is also anger that parents have been informed of the proposals only a few months before they are due to be introduced.

The move will save Dudley Council £55,000 but bosses insisted it would be reinvested on 'service improvements'.

Emma Page's five-year-old son Charlie currently

By Richard Guttridge

attends the centre at St Margaret's. She said she was 'outraged and upset'.

"Charlie wouldn't be able to cope and I don't know how they would cope having a child like Charlie in a mainstream school. Other children might bully him" she said. "I fear he will end up sitting in the corner and just go backwards."

Mrs Page, aged 35, of Lutley Lane, Halesowen, criticised the way parents had been informed. She said: "It's short notice and he will also have to be assessed which takes time."

Mandy Spencer, 33, from Brierley Hill is preparing for her six-year-old son Brandon to move to a mainstream school. She said: "These are children who have got a specific need and the money should be there for them. They should be a priority."

Tim Crumpton, Dudley Council's children's chief, said the changes would improve the service.

Concert and masterclass

AN acclaimed concert pianist is going back to school for an annual recital and musical masterclass.

Margaret Fingerhut will be joined by tenor Anthony Flamm for a two day visit to Old Swinford Hospital School. They will perform a concert open to the public in the great hall at the school, off Heath Lane, on February 26 at 7.30pm. Tickets are priced £8 for adults and £6 concessions on the door.



Face of hate — one of the EDL protesters in Dudley as police kept demos apart

Protest empties town of shoppers

MANY pubs and shops already struggling to make ends meet were forced to shut on Saturday, costing them thousands in lost trade, when the English Defence League returned to Dudley.

Following violence in 2010, hoardings and metal grills were erected to protect businesses.

There were 29 arrests as around 600 EDL supporters and members of an anti-fascist protest took to the streets.

EDL protesters, many hiding their faces behind masks or scarves, arrived under the banner of fighting plans for a new mosque to be built on land off Hall Street, although national issues dominated their vocal protests.

Steel anti-riot fencing was erected across the historic market place but market traders stayed away to be replaced by row upon row of police officers. A handful of shoppers decided on a trip into town early in the day but quickly hurried away.

Police appeared to outnumber shoppers ten to one as the streets, normally lively with the cries of market traders, were eerily quiet — until the chants of protesters began.

Firm expands by moving to new HQ

A FIBREGLOSS manufacturing firm has moved from Stourbridge to new home in Kidderminster after a £1.2 million investment in the former Sealine factory.

The move is part of Quantum Mouldings drive to double its workforce to 50 and increase its turnover to £5 million a year.

It has already recruited 10 new staff over the last year.

Students help heroes in match

PUBLIC services students at Halesowen College have raised £160 for Help For Heroes after taking part in a football tournament.

The group finished the day with an 11-a-side match against sports students. Organiser and lecturer Huw Pritchard said: "Staff and students are looking forward to more charity events."

Help for badger

AN INJURED badger was rescued by police after being spotted outside Sandwell Magistrates' Court in Oldbury. PCSO Kate Heatley called RSPCA for help as she could see the animal was in pain.

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GO Set a Watchman is the title of Harper Lee's forthcoming novel. Curious. I assumed the sequel to To Kill a Mockingbird would be To Cook a Mockingbird.

ANYONE else surprised at the reports describing the bus-v-tree incident in London as a "freak accident?" If the bus is too high and the tree branch is too low, that's not freaky. It's maths.

WAY back in ye olden days we kids were expected to know our times tables by the time we left infant school at seven. We learned them by reciting them. The latest plan, to teach kids their times tables by the age of 11, was described this week as "ambitious." And while we're on the subject. In primary school, we 1950s kids understood verbs, nouns, adjectives and adverbs. We did long division and multiplication. We did nature study and art, history, geography and PE. We sang sea shanties around the piano and did country dancing to the wireless. We could recite the Magnificat and the Beatitudes. And we were never, ever given any homework.

A POLICE campaign against thefts from vans in the West Midlands shows thieves breaking open a van's rear door in just six seconds and stealing valuable tools. Of course, drivers should leave nothing inside worth nicking. But surely the van makers must share the blame. Modern car-door locks make it virtually impossible to drive away a vehicle without the key. So why can the rear doors on a van be breached in six seconds?

A REPORT in Wales proposes "breaking up the old-boy network" by setting limits on how long local councillors can serve. This is revolutionary stuff. At present, councillors can be in power from puberty to the grave, so long as they represent one of those seats where a three-toed sloth would get elected if it wore the right-coloured rosette. Council chambers are full of the municipal equivalent of bed-blockers who soldier on long after they have served their purpose, dunking their free biscuits in their free tea. So what maximum length of term does the Welsh report suggest? Five years? Ten years? Nope. The proposed limit is 25 years. Back to your biscuits, grandad.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Plenty to do during the half-term holiday

LOTS of activities will be held at museums across Dudley borough during the February half term holiday next week — and many of them will be free.

Youngsters can enjoy special events, summer schools and family fun days with the Juniors at Museums (JAM) club this February half-term.

Activities are on offer at all three Dudley Council museum sites — Dudley Museum and Art Gallery, Broadfield House Glass Museum in Kingswinford and Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone — from craft activities to family fun days.

Free family trails, where children hunt for clues around the venue, will be available every day from this Saturday to Sunday, February 22, throughout the holidays (except Broadfield House on Mondays and Dudley Museum on Sundays). The trails are inspired by the BBC 'Take Ten' project.

There's a free drop-in Sticky Saturday session this Saturday, February 14, at Dudley Museum in the town centre with the chance to have a go at a craft. Sticky Saturday runs 1.30 to 3.30pm. Also at Dudley Museum in Priory Street is a drop-in pancake themed crafts day on Tuesday, from 10.30 to 3.30. Families can take part in a range of activities for £2.30 per child. No need to book.

By Simon Stone

Broadfield House Glass Museum has a fused glass session on Thursday, February 19, with sessions at 12.30, 1.30 and 2.30. They cost £4 and must be booked in advance. Broadfield is also running its free 'mad maths and marbles' drop-in session on February 22 from 1.30 to 3.30. Suitable for ages three and up, the sessions encourage families to work on a marble run.

Over at the Red House Glass Cone, on Monday youngsters aged eight and over can enrol in a day-long holiday school from 9.30 to 3.30 and take part in a range of crafts, under the safe guidance of museum education staff. Places cost £22.50 and must be booked. The cone is also hosting a free Sticky Saturdays drop-in craft session on February 21 from 1 to 3pm.

Visit www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums

Removal of trees criticised



Sally Barton is angry about trees being chopped down

MATURE trees near to a war memorial in Stourbridge have been cut down in an act branded 'vandalism' by an angry resident.

Sally Barton, of Norton, has criticised removal of the row of conifers at Mary Stevens Park.

The trees have been removed as part of a £3.1 million project to improve the Stanley Road park.

A £2.6 million Heritage Lottery Fund grant had been received to carry out works.

Officials say removal of the trees will allow better access to the war memorial for those using mobility scooters.

Necessary

But Mrs Barton said the move had taken away from the beauty of the park.

Councillor Heather Rogers, Chairman of the Friends of Mary Stevens Park, said removal of the trees had always been part of the plan.

"Information on this part of the project has been available for a long time and the work was necessary," she added.

Advice on strokes for families of youngsters

AN INFORMATION day will be held by the Stroke Association next month for child sufferers.

Staff, health specialists and parents of childhood stroke survivors will be on hand at the event on March 7 at Birmingham Library to offer free advice.

Anna Panton, child stroke project manager at the Stroke Association, said: "Many people think strokes only happen to older people, so a stroke in a baby or child can come as a big shock. In fact, around 400 childhood strokes occur in the UK each year — that's more than one a day. Families often don't know where to turn for information and support."

"The day is being supported by the Childhood Stroke Project a collaboration between the Stroke Association and Evelina London Children's Hospital, funded by an ICAP Charity Day."

"The Childhood Stroke Project offers information, advice and support for children, young people and families affected by stroke in childhood."

For more information about the Childhood Stroke Parent Support and Information Day, call 07715 065 925. Alternatively email anna.panton@stroke.org.uk or visit www.stroke.org.uk/about/childhood-stroke#events

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Families in plea to keep free transport

ANGRY parents turned out for a public meeting to voice their concerns over Dudley Council's plans to cut free transport for children with special needs.

The council currently pays for dozens of children with additional needs to travel to specialist nurseries.

But it says it is not legally required to provide the service and has launched a consultation to bring in charges, saving more than £200,000 a year.

More than a dozen people attended a public meeting at Insight House, Brierley Hill, to raise their concerns.

Mother-of-two Kirsty Barrett, of Dudley, said: "These children deserve the best education and care possible."

Labour Councillor Ian Marrey, who has a disabled son, said: "I hope we can roll back these plans. On this important matter I cannot agree with Dudley Council because it conflicts with what I know as a parent."

A petition has been launched against the proposed cuts to free transport.

After the meeting Councillor Tim Crumpton, who is in charge of children's services, said: "There were plenty of strong feelings expressed."

"We will never get it completely right but we want to learn from this and get as many opinions and feedback together as possible."

Crossing revamp to ease queues on busy main route

A CROSSING on a major Black Country route is to be improved in a bid to ease congestion and to make that stretch of road safer for pedestrians.

The aim is to improve traffic flow along the A45 Colley Gate to the busy Windmill Hill. A toucan crossing will give cyclists safe passage.

By Richard Guttridge

Cradley councillor Richard Body described the road, which has a 30mph speed limit, as 'absolute mayhem' during rush hour periods.

He said there were also plans to restrict access from Burfield Road onto the busy route to help improve traffic flow.

The councillor has long called for improvements on the route and said he was hopeful the new crossing would make a difference.

He said: "I have been going on about this for a long time. It is an absolutely terrible road. I don't know many cars use it but it is extremely busy."

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said the new crossing would mean cars would not be kept waiting 'unnecessarily' at a red light when nobody was waiting to cross, which has been flagged up as a cause of congestion on the route.

He said: "It will be a facility which requires people to push the button for it to turn red. There is not al-

ways a need for the lights to be red. It is more user friendly, and more friendly for cyclists."

Gurdev Singh, who runs the nearby Windmill Supermarket on Colley Gate, agreed that another crossing was needed.

He said: "We always see people trying to cross over there and they are standing there for five or 10 minutes. Something needs to be done to help them."

Councils in the Black Country have also been tasked with trying to find ways to reduce pollution on the roads.

The cash for the crossing has been awarded to the council by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs's Air Quality Fund.

The level of pollution in the region has been a cause of concern for health chiefs.

More than 50 jobs lost at building firm



Anglo Holt, in Birmingham Road, West Bromwich, closing after more than 40 years in business

MORE than 50 workers have lost their jobs after a major building contractor based in West Bromwich went into administration.

Directors at Anglo Holt Construction Limited, in Birmingham Road, took the action after the firm suffered cashflow difficulties caused by substantial contract losses over the last 18 months.

It was announced 52 of the company's 67 employees had been made redundant. The remaining 15 have been retained to assist administrators and to see if any value can be generated from Anglo Holt's contract base.

Joint administrators Guy Mander and Diana Frangou, of Baker Tilly, have been appointed joint administrators. They said staff who had lost their jobs were being assisted in making claims from the Redundancy Payments Office. Officials said the company's cashflow problems resulted in an inability to meet supplier and sub-contractor payments.

The firm built the Premier Inn at Castlegate, Dudley, in 2013, among scores of hotels across the country.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Garden radio masts have to go

AMATEUR radio enthusiasts have been told masts which have been put up in their gardens in Halesowen and Cradley will have to come down.

Planners at Dudley Council refused applications for the structures to remain, due to the impact they would have on neighbours.

The mast in Kinithe Way, Halesowen, would have stretched to a height of eight metres when in use and reduced to two metres the rest of the time. Another mast proposed for Tree Acre Grove in Cradley was slimmer but reached nine metres when in use.

Councillor Qadar Zada, planning committee chairman, said he 'wouldn't like to wake up' to either structure.

CBSO chamber music is saved

A WORLD famous orchestra has been given a £200,000 funding boost which will secure the future of one of its chamber music programmes.

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra has received the donation from board member John Osborn. It will be matched by the Arts Council.

Bosses say the donation will secure the future of the orchestra's chamber music programme, which showcases the individual talents of the orchestra's players.

The CBSO's public funding has been reduced by 24 per cent since 2010.

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Car parking at park is now 'total chaos'

THE parking at Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge is now total chaos, even worse now than when Children's Services first moved there ten months ago. How Dudley Council can take such a heavy handed attitude is beyond belief of the residents of Stourbridge.

Before Children's Services moved there, this problem was highlighted when it was learnt that there were 250-plus workers due to be moved to the buildings that are set in the park grounds. Dudley Council seemed to ignore the pending problem.

The forecast problem occurred as

soon as Children's Services moved into the building which Dudley Council turned into offices.

This building was donated by Ernest Stevens to Stourbridge Council, and the use of the building was stipulated Ernest Stevens. However, no land was donated with the building.

Ernest Stevens donated all the land to the people of Stourbridge as a park, and so it has been since 1931.

Dudley Council's attitude appears to be that they will take over the park's car parks and ignore the needs of the people that want to use the facilities

of the park and the car park that was intended for them.

Dudley Council has no right to take up the spaces that was intended for park use. Dudley Council has no land there and no car park.

I have nothing against the people that work in those offices, they are welcome to come and park there and use the facilities of the park, but once they have finished using those facilities they must remove their cars from the car park so other people can do the same.

R WOODIER
Stourbridge

Memory of an inspiring art teacher

I am trying to find out more about an old friend of the family, Jeff Mills, who taught art for many years in Halesowen College. He was a friendly character, who hailed from Tonyrefail in Wales, and went from there to the Slade School of Art, before coming to Halesowen to teach.

He and my father, Harry Hopkins, were friends and colleagues, and often exhibited their paintings together in Halesowen in the 1960s and 70s. They founded the Halesowen Arts Club and were very active in the artistic life of the town. My father retired back to Wales, and although they were in touch for some years, when my father finally passed away I could not trace Jeff.

He was a greatly valued friend and inspirational artist and teacher — I hope someone in Halesowen remembers him, as I do, with affection.

E HOPKINS
Carms
eirwenhopkins@aol.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

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Bring back sit and wait at GP surgeries

I HAVE long advocated the old sit and wait system should be brought back to doctors surgeries and, after reading a letter in your paper from a GP, I am even more convinced that it has got to be a better way.

He/she stated that so many people do not attend their appointment that he/she wastes up to seven hours a month because of this. One of the reasons patients don't attend is because they have had to wait so long for their appointment they have got better in the meantime, or in some cases they have got worse and they have ended up in hospital.

Yes they should cancel the appointment and maybe if they have got better anyway they did not need the appointment in the first place but surely that problem would be eliminated if they went back to the old system and had morning and afternoon sessions with a final time for arriving on each session. I also think there should be surgeries at weekends too. There are of course advantages in the appointment system for working people, so surely the two systems could be run side by side and at least it would reduce the problem of none attendance somewhat.

Would it be so difficult for doctors to sort a rota system to accommodate this?

J JAMES
Wordsley

We should bring back foxhunting

WHEN I was a child we used to live near Oldswinford Rail Station and my father used to keep chickens in a shed in the back garden.

We had about 25 birds and one morning we got up to find three dead. Next day there were another three dead. He lost the rest of them week after week.

When I was five years I had six white rabbits. One morning I went out to feed them and found two of the baby rabbits dead, so dad changed where they slept, and then two days later another two were found dead and, two weeks later, the last of my prize winning rabbits were dead.

I used to put my son outside after his breakfast in his pram while I got on with the housework. When I went to get him in for his dinner I found a fox sitting on his pram. He was never put in the back garden again. So I'm all for fox hunting. Bring it on.

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No-one can stop cuts, says top Tory Pickles

MORE cuts will be made to local councils regardless of which party wins the General Election, Communities Secretary Eric Pickles has warned.

The minister, who was visiting Halesowen and Kingswinford last week, said local authorities had to stop 'empire building' and start to share more services.

When asked if the level of funding cuts were sustainable, Mr Pickles bullishly said: "It is completely sustainable. Satisfaction in local government and the level of reserves have never been higher."

"It doesn't matter who is running the country after the election, the amount of money is going down."

"If councils believe they need more money then it is up to them to make the case to the people and run a referendum."

Appropriate

"Telling residents to expect 'more pain' is not appropriate language to use."

"Councils across the country have been able to find these sums."

"We have done a great deal in giving money where it is needed and have said to them if they are able to generate extra income they can keep it."

"They know what the situation is. We have put money in where the pressure is greatest."

"They really cannot expect to have empires and need to co-operate more with neighbours."

As part of cost-cutting measures Dudley Council has controversially turned to dimming or switching off street lights. Residents have expressed fears it will lead to an increase in crime.



Eric Pickles, right, on the streets in Kingswinford with candidate Mike Wood

Mr Pickles said such decisions should be taken after talks with residents.

He said: "It has to be a local choice. The big difference now is that we have LED and new technology which has made it more efficient."

Mr Pickles was knocking on doors

with Conservative campaigners in Halesowen and Kingswinford, both in marginal constituencies.

In Halesowen he met with MP James Morris and in Kingswinford he met with Tory prospective parliamentary candidate Mike Wood for Dudley South.

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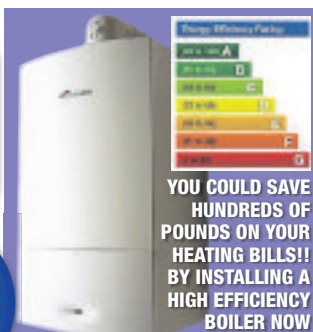
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Homes boss is delighted by sales



'Thrilled with the turnout' — Cala Homes sales and marketing director Robert Monkman at Wychbury Fields

MORE than 170 attended the launch of a development of 175 homes on the edge of a village near Stourbridge.

Despite opposition from some residents in Hagley, Cala Homes won permission to build the homes on land off Stourbridge Road, whilst also paying to upgrade the village's facilities. The properties have been a hit with buyers

as there are now just seven of 17 properties left for purchase in phase one of the Wychbury Fields development. The first residents are expected to move in during April.

Sales director Robert Monkman said: "We are absolutely thrilled with the turnout, response and positive feedback received at Wychbury Fields' launch."

Hospital to improve care

A HOSPITAL has made changes to improve care after an inquest revealing concerns about pain management and wound care.

Paula Clark, chief executive of the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said changes had been made after Black Country coroner Zafar Siddique told an inquest more could have been done to ease the suffering of Medina

Jones, who died from complications resulting from kidney disease.

Mrs Jones, aged 42, of Brierley Hill, had been diagnosed with the rare condition calciphylaxis, which results in chronic non-healing wounds

Concerns were raised by family lawyer Anna Diamond that Mrs Jones' wounds had not been dressed properly, while a tissue viability nurse had not been involved early enough.

Ms Clark said: "We do acknowledge

the coroner's comments around short-falls in her nursing care and that there were issues with pain management and wound care, for which we have wholeheartedly apologised.

"We undertook a thorough investigation at the time of Mrs Jones' death in April 2013, and, as a result, we have carried out an audit of wound charts used within the Trust and we are in the process of reviewing and refining their content."

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New council boss ready to make hard decisions

THE new boss of Dudley Council is fully aware of the difficult decisions ahead as the authority continues to cope with Government cuts.

Seven years on from the global financial crisis and balancing the books is still top of the agenda for newly appointed chief executive Sarah Norman but she is confident in her role.

The council has already proposed savings amounting to £27.4 million by 2017/18 but a further £30m cash hole has yet to be accounted for.

"We need to make sure we are as lean and as efficient an organisation as we possibly can be," she said.

"That means there will have to be some difficult decisions.

"There is no way local government can cope with the reductions in Government funding without making some painful changes to services.

Experience

"This means we will need to look at everything. When you have to save £30m nothing can be protected."

In the desperate hunt to find savings the 52-year-old will be able to draw on a wealth of experience in local government.

Before taking up the £165,000 a year role in January, Ms Norman had been strategic director for community at Wolverhampton City Council, where she worked for seven years.

The mother-of-two had previously served for eight years as an elected councillor in Liverpool, where she lived for 18 years.

The keen runner, originally from North London, is confident budget demands can be met.

"We have a lot of money to save but I think Dudley has got a good track record to build on — we are already half way there," she said.

"Now it is about how do we strengthen families to reduce the number of children in care? How do we



'It's about doing things differently' — Dudley Council chief executive Sarah Norman

keep adults as independent as possible as well so we don't have to provide as much adult social care support?

"There is also a whole strand of work to undertake about doing things differently."

Ms Norman says strengthening the borough's economy will be one of her priorities.

She believes improved transport links will play a vital role and has backed plans for a light rail hub connecting Dudley to the national rail network for the first time in more than 50 years.

Ms Norman comes into the role on

the back of a decision to axe 11 senior management positions out of the 22 in a bid to save £1m.

In total 700 jobs have been cut over four years.

Leadership

She insists her role is an important one. "It is very important the council as a whole gets its leadership from one person," she said.

"It is very difficult to imagine how a council could work effectively without a single point of senior leadership."

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Mother, 77, taking fight for justice to Europe

MARY Law's fight began when her son died at the age of 51, after a career working as an electrician in factories where he was exposed to asbestos.

Since then she has been battling for greater compensation for the families of asbestos victims.

Now the 77-year-old from Dudley has taken her campaign to Italy where a ruling against the boss of a firm which allegedly contributed to the death of hundreds was overturned.

Mrs Law, whose son Roy Shipley died in 2010, opened the Arc-Aid charity shop in New Street, Dudley, four years ago and also works as a chiropract.

After getting involved with the Mesothelioma UK charity, she became aware of the case against Swiss billionaire Stephan Schmidheiny who is accused of failing to ensure the safety of workers in asbestos-cement plants run by his now defunct Eternit group in Italy in the 1970s and 80s. More than 3,000 workers died.

Rome

He was convicted in 2012, after a three-year trial, and sentenced in absentia to 16 years in prison. But a court in Rome has since ruled that he should not have been convicted because the verdict came more than 12 years after the crime. This made the case subject to a 'limitation' law.

Mrs Law and fellow protesters waved banners and placards outside the Italian court and is planning to attend an appeal hearing in Belgium.

"I'm furious about what has happened. I'm very angry about the lack of support for the families of victims," she said. "In this country the Government is not ensuring that people get enough compensation."



Asbestos compensation campaigner Mary Law has protested in Rome

"My son had mesothelioma of the abdomen and didn't stand a chance."

A court ruling in 2013 meant thousands of sufferers and their dependants in the UK will be able to get damages from a special £350 million pot over the next decade. Those diagnosed after July 25, 2012, who cannot

sue former employers as they have gone bust or insurance details were lost, will be eligible.

Mrs Law says thousands of families are not getting enough compensation. About 2,400 people die every year of the disease and numbers are set to increase over the next 30 years.

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A Fish and Chip Shop/Restaurant on the Birmingham and Sandwell border who won the Midlands Choice Chip Award 2014 is hoping to make it two years in a row to win again this February.

The Choice Chip Awards are organised by the Potato Council as part of National Chip Week which runs from 16th - 22nd February to celebrate the Great British Chip!

Simon Shaw, co owner at Chamberlains said "we have already received 1000's of votes from our customers but with over 10,500 fish & chip shops in the UK there is a lot of competition"

If Chamberlains wins the Choice Chips it will be two awards in 3 months as the family business was crowned Best Takeaway in November at the 2014 England & Wales Food Awards.

When asked what makes Chamberlains stand out from the rest Simon added "It's a number of things firstly we only use the best quality produce with up to 10 types of fish and seafood available every day, secondly we cook all our food fresh to order and we have a highly trained team committed in serving the best fish and chips in the area. We offer customers choice of traditional beef dripping or vegetable oil, we even serve Gluten free fish & chips or cooked in our light and crispy batter for a taste of the seaside"

During National Chip Week Chamberlains will be giving away Free Chips with every Fish bought in the

The Chamberlains Cod Meal and all the trimmings!

takeaway (Monday-Thursday) and in the restaurant kids meals will be just £1 all week.

Also available for National Chip Week will be some tasty chip toppings such as pulled pork and BBQ sauce, salt & pepper chips and melted cheese & fried onion.

Chamberlains, situated next to what was Johnthans is located on the junction of Hagley Road West and Wolverhampton Road is open every day for lunch, tea and dinner from 12noon to 9pm there is a takeaway or a full dine in 76 seat licensed restaurant serving a full range of starters, main courses and desserts.

For more information or for a taste of award winning Fish & Chips please visit our Website:
www.chamberlainsfishandchips.co.uk

More Facts;

- 250 million portions of fish and chips are served every year
- 1.6 Million Tonnes of Potatoes used for Chips every year, which need the land equivalent to 47,000 Wembley Football pitches.
- Big Celebrity Chip Fans include Rhianna, Kate Cox and David Walliams.
- There are 10,500 Fish and Chip shops in the UK.
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Raising a glass at whisky festival

WHISKY enthusiasts can enjoy a dram or two when an annual festival returns to the Black Country. The seventh Midlands Whisky Festival is coming to Stourbridge Town Hall on March 27 and 28.

For the first time, the event is being held over two days. Many of the world's leading distilleries will be attending, including Macallan, Glenmorangie and Jura, among more than 20 whisky makers at the exhibition.

Festival director David Gardener said: "We have a weekend show this year to enable a greater audience."

The event runs from 6pm to 9pm on the Friday and noon to 5.30pm on the Saturday. Visit www.whiskyfest.co.uk for more information.

Youngsters get crafty at museum

YOUNG visitors are being urged to celebrate the half-term break by learning about the rest of the world.

The school holiday promises globe-trotting fun at Worcestershire County Museum at Hartlebury Castle with the event, entitled Let's Celebrate, enabling children to explore the festivals and special days which happen around the world each February.

From South American carnivals to Chinese New Year there will be plenty to get involved with between 10.30am and 4pm from Tuesday to Friday. Call the museum on 01299 250416 or visit the www.museums Worcestershire.org.uk website for timetable and prices.

Apology over care staff private letters mistake

CONFIDENTIAL letters containing information on employment contracts for staff working at a care home in Dudley have been mistakenly sent to elderly residents' families.

Officials at Dudley Council have apologised for the 'administrative error'. Some families of residents at New Bradley Hall care home received the letters.

Campaigners who have fought to save the care home in Kingswinford from closure say they are shocked at the latest issue surrounding New Bradley Hall.

Day to day management of the home, in Compton Drive, is being transferred from Dudley Council to Black Country Housing Group (BCGH).

The letters, marked 'private and confidential', detail how contracts will be transferred to staff once the transfer to BCGH is completed on February 20.

They were mistakenly addressed to relatives of residents but do not contain details of individual staff members themselves.

Appalled

UKIP Councillor Paul Brothwood says he is 'appalled' by the error which saw up to six letters sent out mistakenly.

"I have campaigned hard, with the help of local residents, to stop this transfer but Dudley Council is pig-headed pushing this through," said Councillor Brothwood. "This latest fiasco demonstrates the continuous poor consultation

By Andrew Turton

with all those affected. I hope this latest blunder will make them think twice about this."

Councillor Dave Branwood, who is in charge of adult and community services, said: "We have investigated and found this was an administrative error and we have contacted residents and families individually to apologise for the mistake."

"With regard to the transfer of New Bradley Hall, things are progressing well but as with all complex legal processes these things can take time. Our main priority from the very beginning was getting this transfer 100 per cent right for the residents and staff at the home."

"We expect to complete the process in the next few weeks. I must reiterate this is not a privatisation of the home, New Bradley Hall is being transferred to a not-for-profit organisation with a nationally-acclaimed track record and a stable financial footing."

Film options for novelist's second thriller



Steve Watson, AKA SJ Watson, whose latest thriller, Second Life, is published this week

FILM makers are lining up to turn a Stourbridge author's latest novel into a blockbuster - before it has even been published.

Steve Watson's debut novel Before I Go To Sleep topped best seller lists and was made into a film starring Nicole Kidman and Colin Firth. Now the novelist, who writes under the name SJ Watson, is set to see his second book, called Second Life, follow suit.

It is not officially published until today (Thursday) but the author has revealed there is already demand for the film rights. He said: "There is interest and some quite exciting names being mentioned but it is far too early for me to say any more. It's not my job dealing with all that."

He has become one of the biggest names on the book scene after the massive international success of thriller Before I Go To Sleep, published in 2011. Before that he was a writer in his spare time who grew up in Stourbridge and had moved to London to work as an audiology specialist.

Second Life tells the story of a woman whose life is turned upside down when her sister is murdered.

Anger at allocation of homes pay out

COMMUNITY projects will receive less than £90,000 from a Government fund, sparking fury from village campaigners.

Bromsgrove District Council's cabinet agreed £87,000 from the New Homes Bonus be used for schemes across the district during the 2015/16 financial year. Councillor Mike Webb, district finance boss, confirmed the figure, which is 25 per cent of the final 2015/16 grant of £348,000.

Campaigners blasted the move branding the sum 'totally unacceptable' and saying more cash should be made available for communities such as Hagley and Clent.

Cash from the scheme is paid by Government to councils when the number of houses increases in an area. Under the scheme, the council receives £1,455 for each house built. But campaigners claim villages most affected by new housing developments, including Hagley, are not benefitting.

Council officials previously decided to place the money into a central pot. It prompted residents in Hagley to raise a petition calling for the funding to be passed on.

District councillor for Hagley Steve Colella said: "I was left bitterly disappointed with the conclusion that less than £90,000 will be allocated to community projects. That is less than £3 per household in terms of community benefit"

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£600m masterplan for city's business district



An artist's impression of Great Charles Street as it will look following the £600m Snow Hill Masterplan

A £600 million masterplan could turn Birmingham into a financial centre to rival London, Frankfurt or Zurich, creating 10,000 new jobs and providing a massive boost to the local economy.

The scheme is to transform the Snow Hill and Colmore business districts over the next 20 years to win investment from global business, professional and financial services firms.

Birmingham's aim is to repeat the huge success of London's Canary

Wharf and pull in more firms to add to its growing list of investors, which already includes property services group DTZ, Deutsche Bank, Royal Bank of Scotland and multinational law firm Hogan Lovells.

Jobs

The 20-year Snow Hill Masterplan has been launched by Birmingham City Council and Colmore Business District (CBD). As well as creating 10,000 new jobs, it aims to generate more than 200,000 sq m of new office space, and boost the local economy by over £600 million each year.

It builds on the £600m transformation of New Street station while redeveloping Snow Hill station will include new commercial buildings replacing its multi-storey car park.

Sir Albert Bore, Leader of Birmingham City Council, said: "Birmingham is putting in place the building blocks for a global business and financial centre. The city is already investing heavily to ensure that firms have everything they need to thrive here. With time, we want the city to replicate the success of Canary Wharf, with areas like the Snow Hill district forming the cornerstone of this vision."



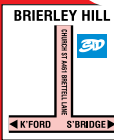
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British Heart Foundation

10 MINUTES TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE



February is Heart Month and this year we're urging people to take at least 10 minutes a day to help improve their heart health as well as support our annual fundraiser, Wear it. Beat it.

There are currently seven million people in the UK living with cardiovascular disease, which includes heart attack and stroke. However, in many cases people can reduce their risk of these conditions by improving their diet, doing more physical activity and quitting smoking.

New statistics we're releasing today show that less than a third (30%) of adults in England eat five pieces of fruit and vegetables a day, and 33% of men and nearly half (45%) of women do not do the recommended 150 minutes of physical activity a week.

To better understand these trends, we carried out a survey that showed a lack of time and motivation are top of the list in terms of barriers that are preventing people being as healthy as they would like. The survey found that almost a quarter (23%) of people said their family or work commitments get in the way of them leading a healthier lifestyle, with 20% saying losing motivation is the biggest barrier currently preventing them from leading a healthier lifestyle.

Small, everyday changes

In response, we're encouraging people to 'start small' by taking at least 10 minutes every day to make a small change towards a healthier lifestyle during February's Heart Month. This is in line with government recommendations that adults should aim to be active daily, 'in bouts of 10 minutes or more', adding up to at least 150 minutes per week.

Catherine Kelly, our Director of Prevention, Survival and Support, said: "The public have told us loud and clear that time and motivation are fundamental barriers to a healthy lifestyle. We have to listen to their concerns and during this Heart Month we are offering people manageable and realistic guidance to help make small changes to their extremely busy routines."

"We know that changing the simplest everyday habits can make a big difference - from getting off the bus two stops early to eating more fruit and veg, and building bite-sized chunks of physical activity in to your everyday life. During Heart Month we're urging everyone to take on the Heart month 10 minute challenge to improve their heart health as well as join our Wear it. Beat it. fundraising event on 6 February to fund life saving research."

Get involved

During Heart Month the BHF is offering an email support programme and advice to help people improve their diet, get more active or quit smoking. You can join the conversation on social media using the hashtag, #10MinChallenge

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Some of the Butler's FC players are seen with their cup winner's shields



Pete Edwards in his Albion hat joins in with the singing



Action from the final of the Express & Star's six-a-side cup from back in 1954

Loyalty stretched far beyond our side when Baggies won the cup

ALTHOUGH I was born a Villa fan, Our Dad always instilled into us the importance of supporting the Midland teams if the Villa were knocked out of any cup-run.

As the later 1960s was the bleakest of times for the fortunes of the Villa, that meant that each season we were having to back another Midland side, in the FA Cup especially.

In 1969 it was Leicester City who had our backing, although they lost against Manchester City in the final; but the year before it was West Bromwich Albion in their 1-0 victory over Everton to win the trophy.

Our Dad was even more delighted that it was a local team, a West Midlands club, that had won. In fact he was so chuffed that he took me and our Kid, Darryl, up town to cheer on the victorious Albion players when they arrived at New Street station in Birmingham on Sunday, May 19, the day after the match. There were several thousand of

MEMORY LANE

Report by Carl Chinn

us around there but that was just the start of the celebrations as 'The Times' reckoned that 'about 250,000 Midlanders turned out to watch West Bromwich Albion 'return in triumph with the Football Association Cup'.

From New Street, a 10-mile route was taken to West Bromwich and so great were the crowds along the way that they 'repeatedly broke through police cordons.

Outside West Bromwich Town Hall, an estimated 10,000 Albion fans were packed in, 30 deep, on either side of the road and behind police lines. Many of them were 'perched in trees, on rooftops, and chimneys 40 feet up'.

When Graham Williams, the captain, emerged on the dais outside the Town Hall and held aloft the trophy, the crowd waved and cheered. The cheering swelled as each player came out to hold the cup, but the biggest acclaim of all was for Jeff Astle, the

centre-forward who had scored the only goal in the game.

Reg Clare also has a story relating to West Bromwich Albion. A while ago he and his wife spent the New Year at Blackpool. He says: "We had a fantastic time.

"The hotel was owned and run by a man from Tipton. All the residents were from the Midlands, and a lot of them were West Bromwich Albion supporters. A question came up: 'How did they get the nickname the Baggies?'

"Years ago I had heard that when they entered the league, they found themselves not so well-off and ready for folding, so they gave their loyal supporters little bags, and asked them and their friends to put a few coppers into them and bring them back next home match. This they did for a few weeks and they paid all debts. Management then said 'to show our appreciation to you loyal supporters and these little bags, if it wasn't for them we wouldn't be where we are, so I'm going to call you little baggies'. Thus arose The Baggies.

Meanwhile, Mr C Pritchard has kindly sent in these three photographs taken in 1954, the year that he was born, and which include his father, Benjamin Ivan Pritchard, who is the goalkeeper.

The game was the final of the Express & Star's six-a-side cup. Benjamin's team was Butler's FC. Mr Pritchard says: "He worked for Butler's brewery in Springfield Road off Cannock Road in Wolverhampton. Dad was in the RAF and also played football for the RAF in India which was his base.

"He also played for Wolves and became third team goalkeeper as understudy for the late, great Bert Williams. Dad also played for Darlaston FC after he left Wolves FC.

Mr Pritchard adds: "I also have the winners' shield Dad received in the photo of the Express & Star final. I would like to know what happened to the Express & Star Cup, where is it kept now and where the pitch was - and also the name of the other team who played in that final, and who presented the cup. The two children behind dad in the photo are my brother and sister."



Goalie Benjamin Pritchard gets the Express & Star Cup

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This go-as-you-please holiday also features optional excursions, which can be booked to fully appreciate the area. They include the chance to take a grand circular tour of the lake and enjoy a day of exploring the resorts; a full day in Verona, the world's most romantic city, with its canals and beautiful St Marks Square; enjoy shopping in Verona and marvel at the Roman amphitheatre; and be awestruck by the dramatic Dolomites with the craggy peaks and idyllic green valleys below.

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Hoedown kicks off stomping concert

Transatlantic Sessions
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham

WHEN Jerry Douglas and Aly Bain bring 17 of the best folk and country musicians from both sides of The Pond you get your money's worth. All 17 opened with a foot-stomping hoedown to get everyone warmed up before bringing on the first of the soloists, sessions regular Tim O'Brien.

Sara Watkins, from Los Angeles was first of the women soloists, her powerful voice filling the hall in between her slick fiddle playing. She gave up the spotlight to fellow American, Dirk Powell from Louisiana, and then Scot Kathleen MacInnes slowed things down. Sessions veterans Mike McGoldrick and John McCusker on flute and fiddle respectively, started with a Scottish pipe tune which then segued into a set of wedding reels assisted by Phil Cunningham on accordion.

Devon's John Smith has enjoyed phenomenal success with his album The Great Lakes from where he took all of his set. Next was guitarist Russ Barenberg and then the diminutive Patty Griffin walked on with a guitar that made her look like a child. But as she launched into country ballad As Cold As It Gets, the slight figure had no problem filling the hall with sound. Throw in John Doyle, Rodney Crowell and Danny Thompson on double bass and the night was worth every penny. **DF**

Residents have told council what concerns them most

FROM fly-tipping and littering to problem parking, action is being taken to tackle a range of issues affecting communities across Sandwell.

Residents were asked to prioritise the issues which most concerned them by a questionnaire.

The concerns ranged from anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping, litter and parking issues to a proliferation of empty properties. Other rears included reducing the number of young people not in education, employment or training, and working the need to work more closely with older people.

Now Sandwell Council has drawn up a series of pledges detailing how these areas will be tackled during the coming months.

Further sessions will then take place during the summer when residents will receive updates on the work carried out across the borough's wards.

Deputy

The council will be working with other organisations as well as ward councillors.

Councillor Mahboob Hussain, deputy leader of Sandwell Council, said: "We are having to make huge cuts in the funding we have available as a council but we want to make sure that we are listening to residents and taking action about the issues that matter to them and that we are accountable."

"I would like to thank

by Heather Large

everyone who attended the initial meetings and fed back to us. Now we have identified the issues which are important to local people in each ward, the council, its partners and ward councillors will work with residents to deliver the pledges."

The first of the meetings is for the Oldbury ward on February 24 at Sandwell Council House. There will be a meeting in Rowley Regis on February 24 at Brickhouse Primary School.

The Smethwick area meetings start on February 24 with the Tipton Green meeting on February 23 and the Great Bridge one on February 24 at Great Bridge Primary School. The West Bromwich Central meeting is on February 24 at West Bromwich Town Hall. Residents in Newton can attend Tanhouse Community Centre on February 26.

For more details visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/neighbourhoodevents or call 0121 569 6000.

Neurological help group on the road



Members of the Black Country Neurological Alliance which is staging a roadshow in Oldbury on February 24

A SUPPORT group for people affected by a neurological condition is staging a roadshow which will be arriving in Sandwell later this month.

The Black Country Neurological Alliance stages the Sandwell Neuro Roadshow at the Salvation Army

Community Church, in Oldbury on Tuesday February 24, from 4 to 7pm. Speakers will be from Myaware, Parkinson's UK and Sandwell Icares, and there are refreshments available.

Spokesperson Peter Cornell states: "Our aim is to promote a better un-

derstanding of neurological conditions through the provision of information, by signposting to support services and influencing local decision makers."

Email bookings@bcneural.org.uk, or call Stephen or Wendy 0121 422 9296. See www.bceneural.org.uk

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jobs axed at city's new £189m library

OPENING hours will be cut and staff numbers halved at the £189 million Library of Birmingham as part of cutbacks — less than two years after it opened.

The stunning library, standing in Centenary Square near Symphony Hall, is the latest to bare the brunt of cuts.

Birmingham City Council says it has no option but to look at cutbacks at the flagship library, which opened its doors 18 months ago. At least 90 people are expected to lose their jobs from a workforce of 188 based at the library.

The council said it must cut nearly £113m from its 2015/16 budget. Council leader Sir Albert Bore said it was the 'end of local government as we know it'.

Schools urged to give a hoot

THE deadline is approaching for schools to take part in an arts event in Birmingham transforming the city centre into a 'virtual aviary'.

More than 100 5ft high owl statues will be placed across the city next summer helping to showcase the cultural side to Birmingham.

Presented by public art specialists, Wild in Art, the project, which is called The Big Hoot has been set up in partnership with Birmingham Children's Hospital.

The scheme hopes to raise £500,000 for the hospital with companies also being urged to sign up to sponsor the art sculptures.

Visit www.thebighoot.co.uk for more details.

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Revolution
in denture provision

A CHAMPION for denture wearers, Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng) has spent more than ten years campaigning to "break the taboo over false teeth and prove that high-quality dentures can indeed be nothing short of life-changing."

Evangelical about what new-generation denture prescriptions can achieve, he says the palette of solutions to deliver a more youthful, engaging smile has never been so great, with traditional, high-quality handmade-on-the-premises prosthetics; suction diaphragm dentures; and implant-retained over-dentures.

"People have come to us with ill-fitting teeth, sunken cheeks and

pinched lips and we have been privileged to transform their looks, providing teeth that not only are aesthetically pleasing and hugely functional, but also successfully support facial structures just like their real teeth once did. It can take years off people."

Can dentures ever be glamorous? "Emphatically, yes," adds Steven.

Strident advances in technology, improved materials and revised clinical procedures are all helping "to drive the denture revolution forward and indeed introduce a real sense of natural-looking glamour to what can be accomplished," he says.

Suction solution is this the answer for you?

A CUTTING-EDGE development that helps to resolve the stability problems faced by thousands of denture wearers is being offered by the Denture Clinic.

Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC108353, who heads the teams at his North Street practice in Dudley, and other clinics across the region, says the invention has the potential to resolve all-too-common denture stability issues.

Prosthetics are held in place by tiny valve-operated suction devices which are built into the prescription. A clever diaphragm principle, triggered by bite pressure on patients' gums, creates a 'sucking' vacuum between the soft-tissue mouth lining and the prosthetic.

Steven, whose clinics attracts patients from as far as Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, says: "In recent times we have seen, what I can describe only as strident clinical steps forward, with implant-retained over-dentures, 'teeth-in-a-day' implant procedures and suction solution dentures, all coming into main-stream dentistry.

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"Implant dentistry as a resolve for stabilisation issues is not suitable for everyone, neither is it all patients' first preference. The Ultra Suction

prosthetics system offers a possible alternative clinical solution.

"The beauty of this affordable technology is that it can deliver for the right patient excellent denture retainer qualities without the invasive clinical procedures required for implant work."

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Reduction

Steven adds: "The device can be mounted on upper or lower teeth and because of its efficiency allows us to consider a reduction in the size of the acrylic 'plate' which can improve speech and taste."

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Nice night out with comics and music

COMEDY character Mrs Barbara Nice will appear in an all-female variety show at a Wolverhampton arts centre.

The show is being presented at the Newhampton Arts Centre in Dunkley Street, on March 5 as part of International Women's Week.

The character has been created by Janice Connolly who appeared as Holy Mary in Peter Kay's Phoenix Nights and Max And Paddy's Road To Nowhere. Miss Connolly has also been in Coronation Street and is artistic director and founder member of Birmingham-based Women and Theatre.

The show at 7pm will feature four comedians and musical acts. Tickets are £8, call 01902 572090.

The mighty Quinn has three dates

SINGER and actor Ray Quinn will be singing in the Black Country and Staffordshire on his UK tour, starting at the Robin 2 in Bilston on March 4.

The Dare To Dream tour also visits the Prince of Wales Theatre in Cannock on April 23 and Lichfield's Garrick Theatre on June 20. The 26-year-old was runner up to Leona Lewis on The X-Factor in 2006 and won ITV's Dancing on Ice in 2009 and the final All Stars series.

Following his first platinum selling album Doing it My Way, Quinn is moving from swing to soul and ballads on new album Dare to Dream, released in April.

Jodie's return as Calamity Jane is now just a whip-crack-away

THE nation's Nancy, Jodie Prenger, is back on the boards in the West Midlands as a rootin' tootin' wild west heroine in the whip-cracking musical Calamity Jane.

The Blackpool girl with the big voice was catapulted into fame when the public voted her their choice to win 2008 BBC TV series I'd Do Anything, the TV talent search for a performer to play Nancy in the revival of Lionel Bart's musical Oliver! at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

She won critical acclaim in the role and went on to carve out a career on the stage, both in the West End and on tour, in such shows as Spamalot and One Man Two Guvnors.

She has also become a radio presenter, often deputising for her pal Paul O'Grady on BBC Radio 2.

The UK tour of Calamity Jane, which calls at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, gives Jodie the chance to take on a role famously created on film by her idol Doris Day in 1953.

She will be playing tom boy Jane opposite Tom Lister, best known for playing Carl King in TV's Emmerdale, in the Howard Keel role as Wild Bill Hickock.

One-nighter

The show's Oscar nominated score includes The Black Hills of Dakota, The Deadwood Stage (Whip-Crack-Away), Just Blew in from the Windy City and the Award winning song Secret Love.

Lindsay Posner's revival of 1940s Pulitzer prize winning Broadway comedy Harvey, which was made into a film starring James Stewart, continues at Birmingham Rep with James Dreyfuss as the man who believes he has a giant rabbit pal and Maureen Lipman as his worried sister.

Also at the Centenary Square venue, the main house hosts a special one-nighter on Sunday, A Summer In The South, readings from the works of Colette by Robert Powell and Siân Phillips.

An ageing Caribbean recluse who keeps bees and a teenage heiress clash in The

By Leon Burakowski

Honey Man by Tyrone Huggins, with the Birmingham playwright himself in the titular role, at The Rep's The Door venue from Monday to Saturday.

Matthew Bourne's Edward Scissorhands, the choreographer's dream-like dance version of Tim Burton's popular fantasy, continues at Birmingham Hippodrome until Saturday. Then Birmingham Royal Ballet start their latest season at the Hippodrome with Moving Stateside, three American ballets, from February 18 to 21.

The sensational singing siblings who found fame on Britain's Got Talent, Richard & Adam, are at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Saturday night. Their Valentine's special features a fellow singer from Wales, Sophie Evans. She found fame as the runner-up on BBC TV's Over The Rainbow in 2010, and went on to perform as Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz at the London Palladium, a role shared with winner Danielle Hope.

Strictly Come Dancing's Brendan Cole is at the Grand tonight (Thursday) with his Latin and ballroom extravaganza A Night To Remember. His former colleagues Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace star in Dance Til Dawn at the New Alexandra until Saturday, and Anton du Beke and Erin Boag present That's Entertainment at the Symphony Hall on Saturday.



Scene from The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

Curious drama is a mystery

THE National Theatre's award-winning production of The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time will be staged at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre next week as part of its first UK tour.

Running from Tuesday to Saturday, Simon Stephens' adaptation of Mark Haddon's best-selling novel received seven Olivier Awards, including Best New Play. It was seen by more than 200,000 in the West End.

The play tells the story of Christopher Boone, a 15-year-old ill-equipped to deal with everyday life who is found beside his neighbour's dead dog, Wellington, which has been speared with a garden fork. Christopher is under suspicion, so uses his extraordinary brain and exceptional ability at maths to solve the mystery.

The Curious Incident will be explored again at Birmingham Hippodrome from May 26 to June 6.

Dunlop to play at Kitchen Garden

If you are out in the Second City on Friday then critically acclaimed Blair Dunlop will be playing the Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath, Birmingham.

Doors open 7.30pm with the show starting 8pm. Tickets are £12 but may incur a booking fee if bought through the website.

On the same night, February 13, the Woodman Folk Club, which meets at the Ashwood Marina, Ashwood Lower Lane, Kingswinford is playing host to Jinky. Members £6 and non-members £1 more. Shows start 8.30pm.

Then on February 20 you can enjoy The Jigantics, the show starts at the same time and members pay £7, non-members £8.

Carrying legacy of The Dubliners

If you are a fan of the legendary Dubliners then you will enjoy the group which is carrying on their legacy in Birmingham next week.

The Dublin Legends will be playing the ornate Town Hall, Victoria Square on February 15.

The show starts 7.30pm and tickets are £25 plus the usual transaction fee.

Singer Diana Jones will be playing at Up In Arms, Biddulph, Staffordshire on Wednesday, February 18.

Tickets are £12 and doors open 7.30 for 8pm start.

For anyone wanting more information or to reserve seats then call Eric Cox on 01782 514896.

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CHOICE



Harry Hill

Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes (ITV, 6.30pm)

Harry Hill has never been the sort of funnyman to play it safe, but is his version of Stars in Their Eyes too surreal for mainstream tastes? Some might think so. This looks like the latest failure for the ex-doctor who scored a smash with TV Burp, but the poor reception of stage musical I Can't Sing and Harry Hill: The Movie have left some fans wondering if he will eventually return to Burp. Let's hope so, but for now, settle back and enjoy possibly the last ever edition of his karaoke show. Christina Aguilera (Christie Holland), Frankie Valli (Peter Sarsfield), Lady Gaga (Emma Wright), Paloma Faith (Sharon Williams) and last week's champion hope they have what it takes to win the SITE final.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 James Martin: Home Comforts. 12.00 BBC News: Weather. 12.10 Football Focus. 1.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.00 Live Six Nations Rugby Union. England v Italy (Kick-off 2.30pm). 4.30 Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Ireland v France (Kick-off 5.00pm). 6.55 BBC News: Regional News; Weather. 7.15 The Voice UK. The blind auditions continue, although competition is fiercer than ever as the number of available places on each team reduces. Tonight's hopefuls include Beckenham duo the Rise, spoken-word poet Lara Lee and Damian Dalton Smith – the brother of actress Sheridan Smith. Will any of them impress Tom Jones, Will.i.am, Ricky Wilson and Rita Ora enough for them to turn in their seats? Emma Willis and Marvin Humes are backstage with the contestants' families.

8.35 The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List. Shane Richie hosts the game show in which two contestants pick a selection of dream prizes to make up their personal wish lists, all of which have a connection to their shared history together. They then face categories of questions in an attempt to win their chosen items. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws, presented by Gary Roslin.

9.25 Casualty. The team struggles to remain professional while treating a child serial killer and the mother of one of her victims. Connie suggests Dylan should apply for the consultant's vacancy.

10.15 BBC News: Weather. 10.30 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. Action from the opening fifth-round matches, which included West Bromwich Albion v West Ham United at the Hawthorns and Blackburn Rovers v Stoke City at Ewood Park; National Lottery Update.

11.35 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from the latest fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Bournemouth v Huddersfield Town.

12.55 Film: Wake Wood (2010) 2.20 Weather for the Week Ahead. 2.25 BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Film: A Double Life. (1947) **8.10 Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam.** (R) **8.40 Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam.** (R) **9.10 British Isles: A Natural History.** (R) **10.00 Six Nations Rewind. 11.00 FA Cup Rewind: Fifth-Round Classics. 12.00 A Taste of Britain. 12.30 A Taste of Britain. 1.00 Shelley Winters: Taking Pictures. 1.30 Film: The Treasure of Pancho Villa.** (1955) Western, starring Rory Calhoun. **3.00 Film: The Desperados.** (1969) Western, starring Jack Palance. **4.30 Final Score. 5.20 The Wonder of Animals.** (R) **5.50 The Great British Sewing Bee.** (R)

6.50 Flag It! The team visits Coventry Cathedral, where Will Axon and Michael Baggot value items including a collection of Clarice Cliff and a trio of watches. Presented by Paul Martin.

7.35 How We Got to Now with Steven Johnson. New series. The American science author explores the impact on the modern world of innovations in six technologies, beginning by tracing developments in cleaning and sanitation.

8.35 Dad's Army. Walmington-on-Sea leaves its mark on a visiting French general when the platoon repaints Lady Matbys' Rolls-Royce just in time for an official engagement. (R)

9.05 Simon Rattle: The Making of a Maestro. Documentary following the principal conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic over the course of a year as he prepares for a series of concerts, oratorios and operas with five different orchestras. The film also uses archive material to explore Rattle's career, including his days at the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. There is also an interview in which he talks about his life and work and there are contributions by Anne-Sophie Mutter, Nicholas Kenyon and Peter Sellars.

10.05 The Dave Clark Five and Beyond: Glad All Over. Documentary looking at the impact and legacy of the London band on the American music scene in the 1960s, when they spearheaded the British invasion alongside the Beatles.

12.00 TOTP2: The 60s. (R) **12.30 Film: Telstar: The Wee Wee Story.** (2008) **2.20 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockers Street. 6.10 Bottom Knockers Street. (R) 6.20 Bottom Knockers Street. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 7.00 Animals. (R) 7.10 Sooty. (R) 7.25 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.30 Scrambled!: Scrambled! 7.35 Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) 7.50 Scrambled!: Adventure Time. 8.30 Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) 8.50 Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 10.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 11.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.30 ITV News: Weather. 12.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 1.35 The Unforgettable Larry Grayson. (R) 2.05 The Chase. (R) 3.05 Doc Martin. (R) 4.05 Big Star's Little Star. (R) 5.00 Regional Programme: Weather. 5.10 ITV News: Weather. 5.25 You've Been Framed: The Next Generation! (R)

6.30 Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes. The finalists – Christina Aguilera, Frankie Valli, Lady Gaga, Paloma Faith and last week's champion – return to battle it out for the coveted trophy. Last in the series.

7.30 Planet's Got Talent. Featuring a US grandmother with a knack for hip-hop, a human Ken doll in Russia, a terrifying lesson in self-defence in Nigeria, and Dawn French's encounter with an obscene dancer.

8.05 Take Me Out. Club promoter Seeb, barman Ben, scuba-diving instructor Will and tailor Phil all hope to find their Valentine among a line-up of 30 single women. Paddy McGuinness hosts.

9.20 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by TV double act Ant and Dec, Jonathan Creek star Alan Davies, Hollywood actress Goldie Hawn and Grammy-winning musician Diana Krall, who also performs.

10.20 ITV News: Weather. 10.35 Cricket World Cup Highlights. Australia v England. Tom Skippings presents action from both teams' opening World Cup Pool A match, held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

11.35 Film: Balls of Fury. (2007) The FBI recruits a washed-up former ping-pong champion to infiltrate an underground tournament run by a criminal mastermind. Comedy, starring Dan Fogler and Christopher Walken.

1.10 Jackpot247. 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 3.40 ITV Nightscreeen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 6.40 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 7.05 Trans World Sport. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 10.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 10.30 Frasier. (R) 11.00 Frasier. (R) 11.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.30 Child Genius. (R) 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ascot, Haydock Park and Wincanton. 4.15 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.15 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 5.45 The Simpsons. (R)

6.10 The Simpsons. Grampa bumps into a newspaper columnist who becomes fascinated with his life and writes a series of stories about him, but Homer becomes suspicious of the journalist's motives. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News. 7.00 Our Guy in India. Part two of two. Guy Martin visits Mumbai, where more skyscrapers are being built than anywhere else in the world, and clammers 833ft to the top of India's tallest building, the Imperial. Back on ground level, the daredevil visits a slum where a million people live in the space of one square mile, before experiencing a downpour on his Royal Enfield with the arrival of the monsoons. To avoid slow-moving and dangerous roads, he makes the final leg of his 1,000-mile journey by sea, on his way to compete in Rider Mania. (R)

8.00 The World's Wildest Weather. An icicle the size of a house causes a street to close in Canada as contractors attempt to remove it using chainsaws, and a mysterious green haze envelops Moscow.

9.00 Film: The Bourne Legacy. (2012) Premiere. The leaders of a secret government agency plan to eliminate several agents as part of a cover-up in their face having their dark secrets exposed. One of the assassins targeted is able to evade his fate and go on the run – but his escape is threatened by his dependence on drugs to boost his physical and mental capabilities. Spy thriller sequel, with Jeremy Renner and Edward Norton.

11.40 Film: Sanctum. (2011) Thriller, starring Richard Roxburgh.

1.40 The Last Leg. (R) 2.40 Random Acts. (R) 2.45 Hollyoaks. (R) 4.55 Location, Location, Location. (R) 5.50 Face the Clock. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 SpongeBob SquarePants. 10.35 Access. 10.40 The Dog Rescuers. (R) 11.05 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 12.05 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 1.00 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 2.00 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 3.00 Film: Columbo: Double Shock. (1973) 4.30 Film: Columbo Goes to the Guillotine. (1989) Detective drama, with Peter Falk. 6.20 5 News Weekend. 6.25 NCIS. The team tries to track down Harper Dearing following the bomb attack on the NCIS headquarters, which has left Ziva and Tony trapped in a lift. (R)

7.10 NCIS. Part one of two. Gibbs is injured in an explosion while conducting inquiries aboard a ship and lapses into a coma, during which he has flashbacks of his hidden past. (R)

8.05 NCIS. Gibbs emerges from his coma with amnesia, meaning he is unable to provide the team with vital intelligence regarding a terrorist plot. (R)

9.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. The death of popular high-school chemistry teacher Chet Messner in a fire appears at first to have been an accident, but the CSIs notice an accelerator was used at the scene and deduce they may have a murder on their hands. They discover Messner was until recently part of a secret coven at the school that had been dabbling in the arcane arts, and had also been selling steroids to the athletics team.

10.00 Law & Order. A dispute over a missing pair of trousers ends in murder – and the ensuing investigation leads Lupo and Green to a businessman working for a shady multinational corporation.

10.55 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. Stabler and Benson search for a teenage boy who disappeared after revealing he had become sexually attracted to his much younger stepbrother. Christopher Meloni stars. (R)

11.45 True Crimes: The First 72 Hours. The rape of a nine-year-old girl is linked to the solved murder of a woman in Toronto three years previously when DNA evidence proves the assaults were by the same person. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 10.000 BC. (R) 4.00 House Doctor. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 5.15 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Great Movie Mistakes 8.00 Top Gear 9.00 Film: Tropic Thunder (2008) 10.40 Backchat with Jack Whitehall and His Dad 11.10 Family Guy 1.50 Crims 2.20 Uncle 2.50 South Side Story 3.20 Backchat with Jack Whitehall and His Dad 3.50 Close

BBC Four

7.00 Amazon: Unnatural Histories 8.00 A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley 9.00 Spiral 10.40 Charlie Brooker's Weekly Wipe 11.10 Horizon: Solar Storms – The Threat to Planet Earth 12.10 Horizon: Swallowed by a Black Hole 1.10 Top of the Pops: 1980 1.50 Love Songs at the BBC: A Valentine's Day Special 2.50 A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley 3.50 Close

ITV2

11.05 The Cube: Celebrity Special 12.05 Educating Joey Essex: Supermodel Student 1.10 Film: Small Soldiers (1998) 3.20 You've Been Framed! 4.50 Film: She's the Man (2006) 7.00 Film: Back to the Future (1985) 9.20 Take Me Out – The Gossip 10.05 Reality Bites 10.45 The Keith Lemon Sketch Show 11.15 Ibiza Weekender 12.15 Film: I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry (2007) 2.20 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 2.45 Teleshopping 5.45 ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.00 A Touch of Frost 2.10 Film: Holiday on the Buses (1973) 3.55 Wycliffe 5.00 Agatha Christie's Marple 7.00 Doc Martin 8.00 Foyle's War 10.00 Lewis 12.05 A Touch of Frost 2.00 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping

ITV4

11.25 The Big Fish Off 12.25 Hogan's Heroes 1.30 Counting Cars 2.30 Storage Wars 2.55 Film: Blues Brothers 2000 (1998) 5.30 Storage Wars 6.20 Storage Wars: Texas 7.15 Film: Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) 9.00 Film: Game of Death (2010) 11.05 Film: The Keeper (2009) 1.10 River Monsters 2.05 Hogan's Heroes 2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping

54

11.35 Marmy Me 12.00 New Girl 1.00 Melissa & Joey 2.00 The Big Bang Theory 3.30 How I Met Your Mother 5.00 Troy 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: Run Fat Boy Run (2007) 11.00 The Inbetweeners 12.10 How I Met Your Mother 12.40 2 Broke Girls 1.40 Spy 2.40 The Cleveland Show 3.25 Don't Trust the B** in Apartment 23 4.10 How I Met Your Mother 4.30 Charmed 5.15 Rude(ish) Tube**

Film4

11.00 Bless This House (1972) 1.00 St Trinian's (2007) 3.00 Dutch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (1985) 5.10 Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2008) 8.55 One Day (11) 9.00 The Brave One (2007) 11.25 Betty Blue: The Director's Cut (1993) 3.05 Close

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Michael Gambon

The Casual Vacancy (BBC1, 9pm)

New series. Drama adapted from the novel by JK Rowling, set in an English village whose seemingly idyllic facade hides a community at war. At the parish council meeting, chairman Howard Mollison introduces his plans to turn the community centre into a health spa, but he reckons without local solicitor Barry Fairbrother, who makes an impassioned speech about the importance of the centre to the impoverished people of the nearby estate. However, an unexpected turn of events leaves an empty seat on the council – leading to the biggest battle Pagford has ever seen. Michael Gambon, Rory Kinnear, Keeley Hawes and Julia McKenzie star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **8.00** Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Match of the Day Live. Aston Villa v Leicester City (Kick-off 12.30pm). **2.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Scotland v Wales (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** BBC News; Regional News.

6.00 Super Cute Animals. Wildlife cameraman Gordon Buchanan embarks on a global journey to find some of the world's cutest animals, aiming to understand why people find them so endearing and revealing the surprising science behind each different creature. He begins with the giant panda, whose unusually large head tells a story of millions of years of evolution and survival. Gordon also reveals how the fennec fox's ears are crucial to its survival, discovers the surprising secret behind a penguin's waddle and meets a five-year-old chimpanzee whose giggle reveals new information about man's evolution.

7.00 Countryfile. The pros and cons of the hunting ban in Gloucestershire, using pedal-power to exercise foxhounds and how motorway services on the M5 are being redefined for the 21st century.

8.00 Call the Midwife. A Christian Scientist couple refuse medicine for their newborn baby – a case that becomes more complicated when they are accused of harming their child.

9.00 The Casual Vacancy. New series. Drama based on the novel by JK Rowling, set in a seemingly idyllic village where the locals go to war over an empty seat on the parish council. Michael Gambon stars.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News. **10.30 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights.** Action from the latest fifth-round matches, including Aston Villa v Leicester City at Villa Park and Arsenal v Middlesbrough at the Emirates Stadium.

11.20 The Apprentice USA. The celebrities are tasked with producing a live cooking demonstration for a steak company, as well as creating and naming a new meat variety pack.

12.45 Film: Stolen. (2010) **2.10** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.15** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **8.00** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.20** FA Cup Rewind: Fifth-Round Classics. **11.20** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **12.50** The Great Comic Relief Bake Off. (R) **1.50** Food & Drink. (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.25** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.10** Open All Hours. (R) **3.40** To the Manor Born. (R) **4.10** Hi-De-Hi! (R) **4.45** Flog It! Trade Secrets. **5.15** Alaska – Earth's Frozen Kingdom. (R)

6.15 Ski Sunday. Highlights from the alpine skiing world championships from Vail/Beaver Creek in Colorado, including the men's giant slalom discipline.

7.00 The Motorway: Life in the Fast Lane. Cathorpe is a major interchange linking the M1 and A14 to the start of the M6, but now it's about to be redesigned at a cost of more than £190million to make it safer and less congested. Overseeing the work is construction manager Mark Sutton, who has to ensure the local residents are happy, as well as relocating a protected colony of great crested newts. Elsewhere, the Highways Agency and maintenance teams cope with the aftermath of an overturned lorry that spilt a cargo of milk on to the carriageway. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson compares BMW's M4 with its hybrid-powered i8 model and Richard Hammond pays tribute to the Land Rover. With guests Will Smith and Margot Robbie.

9.00 Dragons' Den. Ideas pitched include an anti-piracy device for sailors, a children's bike horn, a brand of ice-cream with an east Asian flavour and a shopping app.

10.00 Modern Times: Mayfair. Documentary about the characters who live and work in the area of central London, from an upmarket resident who dresses in Victorian clothing to a cabbie living in social housing.

11.00 Film: The Quiet American. (2002) A British journalist in 1950s Vietnam befriends an American aid worker, but suspects his new acquaintance is not all he appears to be. Drama, with Michael Caine and Brendan Fraser.

12.35 Film: The Night of the Generals. (1967) **2.55** Countryfile. (R) **3.50** Holby City. (R) **4.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockout Street. **6.10** Bottom Knockout Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knockout Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stars: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled! Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled! Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.30** Scrambled! Horrid Henry. (R) **8.50** Scrambled! Deadtime Stories. (R) **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.35** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes. (R) **1.40** River Monsters. (R) **2.10** Mel & Sue's Best Bits. **3.10** Tipping Point. (R) **4.15** Film: For Your Eyes Only. (1981) James Bond spy thriller, starring Roger Moore.

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Get Your Act Together. Actress Nina Wadia (best known as EastEnders' Zainab) is mentored by mind reader Marc Paul, Emmerdale's Romy Shahidi (Leyla) joins contortionist Pavi Le Knot, TV presenter Matt Johnson is coached by tap dancers Tap Corps, former Hi-De-Hi! star Ruth Madoc teams up with mime artist Les Bubb, and pop twins Jedward collaborate with Jump Rope UK for some double-dutch skipping. Host Stephen Mulhern follows the rehearsals leading up to the contestants' big performances as they compete for a place in next week's final.

8.15 All Star Family Fortunes. Retired Bolton midfielder Fabrice Muamba and newsreader Ranvir Singh team up with their families in an attempt to win a jackpot of £30,000 for charity.

9.00 Mr Selfridge. Frank Richards may be unwittingly complicit in Kitty's attack, Harry realises his feelings for Nancy are stronger than he first thought, and Violetta makes her move on Victor.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Perspectives: Sheila Hancock – The Brilliant Bronte Sisters. The actress explores the work of the 19th-century literary family, setting out to discover what inspired them to write such epic novels seemingly worlds apart from their own lives. (R)

11.15 Premiership Rugby Union.

12.10 The Store. **2.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.15** ITV Nightgreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 NFL: Rush Zone. **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** Film: City of Ember. (2008) Fantasy adventure, starring Saoirse Ronan. **4.40** Channel 4 News. **5.05** Location, Location, Location. (R)

6.05 A Place in the Sun. Sara Damergh helps Hull couple Peter and Julia Andrews find a holiday home in Freetown on a budget of £60,000.

7.00 The Hotel. It's the end of the summer season and Mark prepares to bid farewell to the Cavendish, but he has more than work on his mind as his mum Stella recovers from a stroke in hospital. Hoping to secure his legacy at the hotel, the entertainments manager plans a lavish black-tie gala celebrating local family businesses, but with time running out, he admits to ex-colleague Alison that he's only sold 23 of the 70 seats.

8.00 The Auction House. New series. As the goods arrive for the week's sale at Lots Road Auctions, the valuers admire a pair of opulent dog beds, while a regular buyer helps a friend kit out her mansion.

9.00 Indian Summers. New series. Drama set in 1932, telling the story of the decline of the British Empire and the birth of modern India. Ralph Whelan and the rest of the Indian Civil Service begin the annual move to Simla, while doyenne of the social scene Cynthia Coffin prepares the exclusively white British Club for the start of the summer season. The train to Simla is delayed, however, when a boy is found collapsed on the railway tracks, while a mysterious assassin makes his way to the city.

10.40 Gogglebox 2014. Highlights from the reality show, featuring the nation's favourite armchair critics commenting on popular TV programmes as they watch them.

12.15 Film: No Country for Old Men. (2007) **2.30** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **3.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.20** River Cottage Bites. (R) **5.30** Face the Clock. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. **7.05** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.10** Olly the Little White Van. **7.15** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.30** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.45** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.00** Little Princess. (R) **8.15** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.30** Wanda and the Alien. **8.40** Zack and Quack. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.35** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) **11.25** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) **12.25** Cowboy Builders. (R) **1.25** Film: How to Make an American Quilt. (1995) Drama, starring Winona Ryder. **3.35** Film: Loch Ness. (1996) Family drama, starring Ted Danson. **5.30** Film: Lady and the Tramp. (1955) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Barbara Luddy.

7.05 5 News Weekend.

7.10 Film: Memphis Belle. (1990) The crewmen of an American B-17 bomber prepare for their final flight before returning home to a hero's welcome. However, the mission – to launch a daylight raid on a supply factory in a heavily defended German city – threatens to be the most hazardous they have ever undertaken. Fact-based Second World War drama, with Matthew Modine, Eric Stoltz, John Lithgow, Harry Connick Jr, Tate Donovan and Billy Zane. Edited for language and violence.

9.00 Film: War of the Worlds. (2005) A divorced father's rare weekend with his two estranged children descends into horror when alien war machines rise from beneath Earth and begin to systematically destroy every human being in their path – leaving the man with the dangerous task of getting his kids to safety. Steven Spielberg's sci-fi thriller, based on HG Wells' novel, with Tom Cruise, Dakota Fanning, Justin Chawin, Miranda Otto and Tim Robbins.

11.20 Film: Drag Me to Hell. (2009) A bank employee is cursed to suffer a series of misfortunes, and has to break the spell in three days before a demon takes her to Hell. Horror, with Alison Lohman.

1.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** 10,000 BC. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make Me Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Glam. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 The Voice UK **8.20** Film: Meet the Parents (2000) **10.00** I Survived a Zombie Apocalypse **11.00** Family Guy **11.50** Uncle 12.20 American Dad! **12.40** I Survived a Zombie Apocalypse **1.40** Bangkok Airport **2.35** Crims **3.05** Bangkok Airport

BBC Four
7.00 The Great War **7.40** Britain's Wild Places **8.00** Simon Rattle and the Berlin Philharmonic. London 2011 **9.40** Film: Goodbye First Love (2011) **11.30** Wonders of the Solar System **12.30** Sounds of the 70s **1.00** Neil Sedaka: King of Song **2.00** Neil Sedaka: Says: All You Need Is the Music **2.45** You've Got a Friend: The Carole King Story

ITV2

11.40 Take Me Out **12.55** Take Me Out – The Gossip **1.40** You've Been Framed! **2.10** Scorpion **3.05** Film: The Little Vampire (2000) **5.00** Film: Space Jam **6.45** Film: Miss Congeniality (2000) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **10.30** Film: Not Another Teen Movie (2001) **12.35** Film: The Invention of Lying (2009) **2.20** Teleshopping

ITV3

12.05 Wycliffe **1.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.50** Rosemary & Thyme **4.55** Inspector Morse **7.00** Lewis **9.00** The Best of the Royal Variety **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.30** Film: The Big Fish **11.35** Film: Parenthood (1989) **1.55** Countryville Kitchen **2.20** Countryville **3.10** On the Buses **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4

11.15 Film: For Whom the Bell Tolls (1943) **2.25** Prawn Stars **5.10** Film: Police Academy **3.00** Back in Training (1986) **7.00** The Big Fish **8.00** Film: Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Harry's South Pole Heroes **10.00** Cricket World Cup Highlights **11.00** Film: Horsemen of the Apocalypse (2009) **12.55** Hell on Wheels **1.40** River Monsters **2.30** Nitro Circus **2.50** ITV4 Nightgreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.30 Revenge **1.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.30** The 100 **3.30** Rude(ish) Tube **5.00** Melissa & Joey **6.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Zoolander (2001) **9.45** The Inbetweeners **10.50** Rude Tube Shorts **11.05** Rude Tube **12.10** Taking New York **1.15** How I Met Your Mother **2.10** Rules of Engagement **3.00** The New Normal **3.45** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 Ten Tall Men (1951) **1.00** Stardust (2007) **3.30** The Lost World (1960) **5.25** The Waterboy (1998) **7.05** The Seeker: The Dark is Rising (2008) **9.00** The Cold Light of Day (2012) **10.50** Unfaithful (2002) **1.15** Weekend (2011) **3.20** Close

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10th April	3 days	Sidmouth The Bedford Hotel, 3 stars, 2 excursions included.....	£179
13th April	5 days	Isle of Wight Trouville Hotel, 3 stars, 3 excursions included.....	£279

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MONDAY

Act of Valor, Channel 5, 11pm

A team of elite Navy personnel is sent on a mission to rescue a kidnapped CIA agent. Their mission leads them to uncover a conspiracy between a Russian drug smuggler and a fanatical terrorist, and a plan to launch a devastating attack on the United States. Military adventure, starring Alex Veadov and Roselyn Sanchez. (2012)

TUESDAY

Carry On Girls, ITV, 11.40pm

The council of a seaside town is in dire need of a means to attract tourists to its resort, so announces a beauty contest. While the conniving organiser plots a series of publicity stunts, an outraged feminist group plans to sabotage the event. Comedy, starring Sid James, June Whitfield, Joan Sims, Barbara Windsor, Bernard Bresslaw and Peter Butterworth. (1973)



Erin Brockovich, Wednesday, Channel 5, 10pm

WEDNESDAY

Erin Brockovich, Channel 5, 10pm

A single mother desperate for work pleads her way into a routine administrative job at a law firm. It is not long before she stumbles across mislaid documents about a case brought against a corporation for poisoning the residents of a small town by contaminating their water supply. Realising something is amiss, she begins her own investigation. Fact-based drama, with Julia Roberts in an Oscar-winning role. (2000)

THURSDAY

AI: Artificial Intelligence, BBC1, 11.45pm

A highly advanced robotic boy is created with one purpose - to love his owner as a parent. When he is rejected by his "mother", he is left to roam the bleak landscapes of a futuristic America with a fellow android, searching for a means of becoming a real boy in the hope of regaining her love. Steven Spielberg's sci-fi drama, starring Haley Joel Osment. (2001)

FRIDAY

2001: A Space Odyssey, BBC2, 11.05pm

Scientists detect a mysterious black monolith on the moon is transmitting a signal to Jupiter. A spacecraft is sent on a mission to investigate the origins of the strange object, but as they near their destination, the astronauts realise the computer controlling the ship is turning against them. Stanley Kubrick's sci-fi epic, with Keir Dullea. (1968)

The truth will finally be revealed this week

On February 19, 1985, an icon was born. At 7pm, viewers heard Simon May and Leslie Osbourne's unforgettable theme for the first time before the opening scene - involving the discovery of pensioner Reg Cox's corpse by Ditty Den Watts and his pals.

Yes, EastEnders burst onto the TV landscape that night and has been a mainstay ever since, grabbing the attention with numerous controversial, gritty and enthralling headlines.

Who can ever forget Den handing wife Angie divorce papers on Christmas Day 1986, watched by over 30 million people? Or Kat announcing that she's Zoe's mother? Or even Frank turning up naked on Pat's doorstep? Now there's an image that can't be erased from the memory...

The latest massive storyline has involved the murder of Lucy Beale, which took place on Good Friday last year.

After almost 12 months of wondering whodunit, we should find out the truth in tonight's two

episodes and tomorrow's much-publicised live edition - but executive producer Dominic Treadwell-Collins claims there's even more excitement to come.

"As we celebrate our 30th anniversary, we have set ourselves an enormous challenge - a week of live scenes, a four-breaking flashback, a live episode, story twists that will leave a lump in the throat and a few moments that will elicit genuine gasps from our audience."

The tension will have been building across the week, beginning on Tuesday with Barbara Windsor's return as battleaxe Peggy Mitchell. While much of Tuesday to Thursday's episodes have been pre-shot, live scenes will also be included on each night, just to spice things up a little - and no doubt keep the actors on their toes.

Tuesday will have been dominated by the fate of Ronnie Mitchell, and Wednesday by Ian and Jane's wedding, but it's Thursday and Friday that fans are most interested in.

Nick Cotton - yes, Nasty Nick, one of the soap's original characters - is

about to meet his maker, Kim goes into labour and secrets about the Mitchell clan come to light before Lucy's death takes centre stage once more.

Thursday's second episode sees Hetti Bywater return to the role in flashback, as the night of her murder is relived. The whole of Friday's edition will then be broadcast live, and following various revelations, it's fair to say that life in Albert Square may never be the same again.

"Everyone is really buzzing and excited about it," says actor Shane Richie of the live aspects of the anniversary. "We can't wait for it to come! You know it's a really big team effort and everyone's really excited about it. Obviously some have got more to do than others but the fact that we're involved in it is a blessing."

Will viewers think all the effort has been worthwhile once the week is over? Let's hope so - in fact, let's hope we're all tuning in again in another 30 years time as Walford turns 60, when we may be looking back at memorable moments that include the unveiling of Lucy Beale's killer.



Hetti Bywater stars as Lucy in EastEnders, Thursday, BBC1, 9.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Match of the Day Live BBC1, 7.30pm

Preston North End v Manchester United (Kick-off 7.45pm). Coverage of the concluding FA Cup fifth-round tie at Deepdale, as the League One hosts look to cause an upset. United have been drawn away from home to lower-league opposition in all three of their ties so far, and needed a replay to get past Cambridge United in round four, as did Preston, as they won 3-1 at Sheffield United. The sixth-round draw follows the match. Presented by Gary Lineker.

UKIP: The First 100 Days Channel 4, 9pm

'What if' is one of the greatest, and occasionally most chilling premises for any drama, as Twilight Zone and Black Mirror have proved over the years. Occasionally Channel 4 also make one-off political dramas such as The Trial of Tony Blair, and this docu-drama from the producers of excellent Maisie Williams drama Cyberbully. It's set in a future where UKIP have won a shock victory in the 2015 general election, and Nigel Farage is Britain's Prime Minister. It follows the work of a newly elected MP, Deepa Kaur, UKIP's only female Asian MP enduring frontline politics during her first 100 days in office.

TUESDAY

The Gift BBC1, 9pm

Matt Baker meets 51-year-old Jon Howe, who as a boy was the school bully. He is ashamed of the torment he dealt out to one boy in particular - Simon Pierce - and now wants to find his former classmate to apologise. But will Simon even want to see him, let alone forgive him? Mel Giedroyc hears from 46-year-old Lisa Whymand, who was diagnosed with leukaemia but survived thanks to a bone-marrow transplant. Now she would like to meet her donor - despite their identities being kept anonymous.

WEDNESDAY WOLF HALL BBC2, 9pm

The Act of Supremacy has declared Henry the supreme head of the church in England, but Holy Roman emperor Charles V and his ambassador Eustache Chapuys refuse to recognise the new title or the monarch's divorce and subsequent marriage. With Anne pregnant and away from court, Henry begins to take more notice of

Jane Seymour, whose family enlist Cromwell's help in their dealings with the king - much to Anne's displeasure. Historical drama, starring Mark Rylance.

THURSDAY CUCUMBER Channel 4, 9pm

It may lack the sparkle and originality of his groundbreaking Queer as Folk, but Cucumber has nevertheless won over a new generation of fans and kept Russell T Davies' existing supporters more than happy. It's also introduced the world to an intriguing central character in Henry Best, the middle-aged insurance expert who has put his previously happy relationship with long-standing partner Lance on the line during a moment of madness. This week, his lies seem destined to catch up with him, potentially putting him on a collision course with everyone he loves.



Bear Grylls: Mission Survive, Friday, ITV, 9pm

FRIDAY

THE MUSKETEERS BBC1, 9pm

King Louis accepts an invitation to view the solar eclipse at the castle observatory of renowned astronomer Marmion, so Rochefort and a trio of Musketeers escort the courtiers. However, just as the sun is blocked out by the moon, a shocking turn of events leaves the royal party fearing for their lives. Just who is this Marmion and what is his game? Back at the garrison, Athos and Treville remain unaware of the danger faced by the king and their friends - until help arrives from an unexpected source. Tom Burke, Santiago Cabrera and Howard Charles star.

Bear Grylls: Mission Survive ITV, 9pm

New series. Eight celebrities embark on a 12-day expedition in the rainforest of Costa Rica, where they must learn to navigate difficult terrain, build shelter, make fire and eat the food that nature provides. From abseiling down ferocious waterfalls to crossing perilous rapids, the stars face a range of challenges and Bear himself eliminates one of them each week, leaving three in the final. Kelly Holmes, Mike Tindall, Emilia and Laurence Fox, Max George, Jamelia, Vogue Williams and Tom Rosenthal make up the team.

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THE KING'S SPEECH

By David Seidler

Raymond Coulthard as King George VI

Jason Donovan as Lionel Logue



The acclaimed play that inspired the Oscar-winning film

25 FEBRUARY TO 7 MARCH

0121 236 4455 birmingham-rep.co.uk



Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

	20		18			4	2	20	11	1	20	17	21
21	6	20	15				3		18			14	15
	25			5	18	4	2	10	24		14	18	9
16	21	11	21						1		25		20
			24										
8	20	19	19			20	13	3	21	19	3	8	2
		D					3		11		21		
10		18				23	21	2					
		I									24		25
24		20			4		21		25	20	2	2	21
14	21	2	8	12	18	24	1			4			
3		11			20					12	3	4	7
4	7	18		22	20	5	10	3	11			16	
21		9		21		20				20	8	18	19
19	11	21	20	11	18	25	26			15		1	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
S	X	C	U	J	O	A	B	G	W	V	Q	P
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Z	T	D	E	L	I	Y	F	M	K	R	H	N

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1 & 3Ac. He's most likely to succeed (4-8)
3. See 1 Across
8. How many removed from the Vatican in excommunication? (4)
9. By which Parliament votes for a large military unit (8)
11. Honesty is the necessary quality of a good ruler (12)
13. Interfere with the decoration, by the sound of it (6)
14. Make an attack in some of the fiercest R.A.F. expeditions (6)
17. Almost synonymous with evening-dress? (5-7)
20. Doing what Ivy does (8)
21. One in the vessel is a murderer (4)
22. This indicates the way to finish off secretarial correspondence (8)
23. Endlessly give one's attention to the boss (4)

Down

1. Fine looking vehicle, we hear (8)
2. Eroding badly, but went unheeded (7)
3. An unfortunate state in which to make a solemn promise (6)
4. A falsehood by a whole group of people leads to estrangement (10)
5. Ways out for ten in different site (5)
6. Small container required before the end of the day (4)
7. What the dentist acting as a locum will do (4,3,3)
8. Dear ones thought things out differently (8)
9. What strange skill will get across? (7)
10. They make it possible to track down South American money! (6)
11. Giving confectionery a topping finish (5)
12. Scripture book put back in the oldest cathedral (4)

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18 I
6	19 D
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

[illegible]

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Snug (4)
3. Motion (8)
8. Approaching (4)
9. Each person (8)
11. Decrease in affection (12)
13. Blow (6)
14. Essential commodity (6)
17. Unconcern (12)
20. Bills (8)
21. Wise men (4)
22. Banish (8)
23. Remain (4)

Down

1. Summarise (8)
2. Smash (7)
4. Plunder (6)
5. Imperious (10)
6. Contempt (5)
7. A vegetable (4)
10. Defamation (10)
12. Rashness (8)
15. Locket (7)
16. Influence (6)
18. New (5)
19. Jettiv (4)

7				6		8	2
		3		8	1	5	7
	8		7				
6			3			2	
8				2	7		6
	5		6		4		3
	2					7	
1	9	8		7	6		
4				9			5

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9

LAST WEEK'S
SOLUTIONS >

4	9	5	7	6	3	2	8
8	6	2	9	4	1	7	3
7	3	1	5	2	8	6	9
6	2	3	8	7	5	1	4
1	7	4	3	9	6	5	2
9	5	8	2	1	4	3	6
2	8	7	1	3	9	4	5
5	1	6	4	8	2	9	7
3	4	9	6	5	7	8	1

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Left-handers; 9 Hammers; 10 Anvil; 11 Attic; 12 Sten-gun; 13 Roamed; 15 Sledge; 18 Stopper; 20 Plead; 22 Ashes; 23 Stand-in; 24 Freeholders. Down: 2 Emmet; 3 Treacle; 4 Assist; 5 Drake; 6 Ravaged; 7 Theatre seat; 8 Clandestine; 14 Another; 16 Lapland; 17 Presto; 19 Paste; 21 Elder. QUICK - Across: 1 Contraction; 9 Eatable; 10 Never; 11 Erode; 12 Certain; 13 Rescue; 15 Adhere; 18 Typical; 20 Urban; 22 Odour; 23 Genesis; 24 Remorseless. Down: 2 Outdo; 3 Tableau; 4 Agency; 5 Tenor; 6 Obviate; 7 Penetration; 8 Drunkenness; 14 Suppose; 16 Diurnal; 17 Aliqns; 19 Carq; 21 Basis.

1. Who chaired the arms-to-Iraq inquiry?	6. In which country is the Great Bear Lake?
2. What is recorded using a sphygmomanometer?	7. For which element is Ba the symbol?
3. Who painted the Rokeby Venus?	8. Who was the commander of Apollo 11?
4. Into which river do the Great Lakes drain?	9. Of which country was Yitzhak Rabin prime minister?
5. In which county was the churchyard of Thomas Gray's famous Elegy?	10. Who wrote Les Fleurs du mal?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Rita Hayworth; 2 Navarre; 3 Australian; 4 Longchamp; 5 Aaron; 6 Quakers; 7 St Luke; 8 Meerschaum; 9 Kentucky; 10 Gilbert and George.

Niner: PHILANDER

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

12385 gives a large bird,
439 gives a fish,
876 gives another fish.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



slimmingworld.com
0844 897 8000  



ADVERTISEMENT

KENTON DEAN IS SET TO SHARE HIS SLIMMING SECRETS

Aslimmer who transformed his life by losing 3 stone is using his success to shape a whole new career helping other people change their lives for the better too.

Kenton Dean joined his local Slimming World group in Mogul Lane run by Amanda Cross 4 years ago and dropped from 17 stone to 14 stone in 17 weeks.

Now Kenton Dean has trained as a Consultant for Slimming World since September 2011, the UK's leading slimming club, and is opening a new group at Portway Lifestyle Centre Newbury Lane Oldbury B69 1HE on Saturday 14th February 2015 at 09.00hrs.

Kenton already runs successful groups in Rowley Regis Rowley Regis Disability Centre Rowley Village (next to Tesco Express) B65 9AT on Tuesdays 5.30 and 7.30pm and, Fridays 9.30am and Tividale St Michaels Church Tividale Road B69 2LQ on Wednesdays at 5 and 7pm.

January weight losses at the groups were in excess of 1200lbs (over 80stone).

He says: "Obesity is becoming such a huge issue across the UK. When I first joined Slimming World as a member, I never dreamed that I would end up helping other people to lose weight but now I just can't wait to get started. It's a privilege for me to be able to pass on the experience, insight and understanding that helped me, so that I can give my members the support they need to get to target."

"Like a lot of slimmers, I had tried to lose weight so many times before by following numerous diets but they were never sustainable because I'd always get tired of restricting what I ate. I thought I was destined to struggle with my weight for the rest of my life, but when I came to Slimming World it was different. I never felt like I was on a diet. The eating plan encourages you to eat lots of filling foods like pasta, rice, potatoes and lean meat and fish, you are never hungry and no foods are banned so there's no deprivation. I couldn't believe I'd found a way to lose weight without starving myself.

"Slimming World isn't just about changing what you eat. It's all about getting the support to choose a healthier lifestyle like finding ways to become more active even if you're not very mobile or don't like exercise.

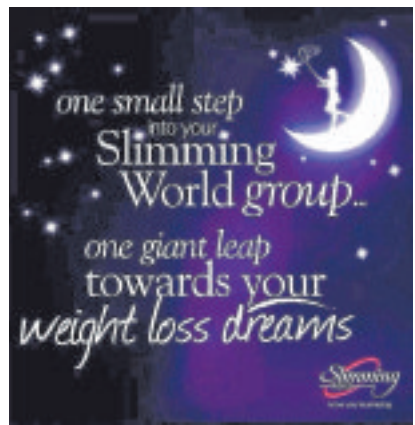
"My weight loss has completely changed my life. I was diagnosed with non alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease. Following Slimming World plan has meant my liver has repaired itself and I am symptom free. My groups are more of a social event where new friends can be found. The people that come to the groups are like an extended family.

"On top of that, I've got a new career, but best of all, I'm doing something that I'm passionate about. As a slimmer myself I know how hard it can be. And I couldn't have lost 3 stone without my Consultant and my group. Sharing recipes and other ideas, and overcoming disappointments as well as celebrating success was all part of the journey, so there'll be lots of support, encouragement and fun at my Slimming World group."

Kenton's new Slimming World group will be held at Portway Lifestyle Centre every Saturday at 9am from 14th February 2015.

For more information or to join Kenton's group either pop along on Saturday 14TH February 2015 or call him on 07982 408088.

**Or: For more information visit
www.slimmingworld.com or call 0844 897 8000.**



Refurbished farmhouse retains original features



WESTVIEW Farmhouse in Clive Road, Pattingham, near Wolverhampton, is an attractive Grade II listed Georgian residence.

It is for sale through DB Roberts & Partners at £599,950.

The house has been restored and refurbished to a high standard, retaining its charm and character, whilst all the convenience of modern appliances have been installed. It has a drawing room with inglenook fireplace, dining room, breakfast kitchen with utility, guest WC, study, cellar, four bedrooms, master bedroom with dressing room and en suite bathroom and a further house bathroom. There is a detached garage and rear gardens mostly laid to lawn but have an extensive entertaining terrace.

Call 01902 427257 or visit the website at www.dbroberts.co.uk



Plenty of potential to modernise home

THERE is no chain for this three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Holly Road, Oldbury, on sale through Braithwaites at £159,950.

In need of modernisation and having gas central heating and majority double glazing, it has a side garden with space for an extension subject to permission.

There is a lounge/dining area with a front bay window and sliding patio doors out to the rear garden, a kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom with separate WC, front and rear gardens, garage and drive.

Contact Braithwaites on 0121 4211180 or visit www.braithwaites-estate-agents.co.uk



humberstones homes

0121 422 1188

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MANOR LANE, HALESOWEN



EXTENDED detached family home with **SOUTHERLY** rear aspect. Dining room & **EXTENDED** 25ft lounge to rear. 21ft breakfast kitchen with appliances & separate utility room. Having **STUDY** playroom & D/S WC. 5 bedroom. **LARGE** family bathroom with shower & **ADDITIONAL** shower room. **GARAGE** & driveway to front - lots of parking. **EXTENSIVE** lawn garden with patio area. UPVC DG & GCH fitted. EPC rating: D

£449,950 Ref: D1547

HAGLEY RD WEST, HALESOWEN



REFURBISHED detached home on **LARGE** plot giving scope to extend further. **REFITTED** kitchen diner & 2 reception rooms. **REFITTED** utility room & **REFITTED** d/s shower room. 4 bedrooms on 1st & 2nd floors along with a play area/dressing area on 2nd floor with bed 4. **REFITTED LUXURY** bathroom with shower. Gravelled **DRIVEWAY** with lots of parking! UPVC DG & GCH. **NO UPWARD CHAIN**. EPC rating: D Ref: D1544

£399,950 Ref: D1544

WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, OLDBURY



DETACHED home with **SOUTHERLY** rear garden overlooking **GOLF COURSE**. 16ft lounge leading to 12ft dining area with 10ft **CONSERVATORY** to rear. **FITTED** 12ft10 kitchen with appliances. 3 bedrooms all over 12ft on 1st floor & family bathroom. **BLOCKPAVED** driveway to front leading to carport. Rear garden having 17ft outbuilding/games room/office. Gas central heating fitted. EPC rating: D Ref: D1562

£275,000 Ref: D1562

SHERWOOD ROAD, SMETHWICK



SPACIOUS & EXTENDED home close to Bearwood High Street & parks. Reception room to front & **OPEN PLAN** kitchen diner to rear leading to lean-to utility room. **REFITTED** family bathroom & 3 bedrooms on first floor. Low maintenance gardens. Gas central heating & majority UPVC DG. EPC rating: Ref: D1568

£180,000 Ref: D1568

PERRY HILL ROAD, OLDBURY



NO CHAIN - Well presented **EXTENDED** semi with **PARKING** to front - **SITUATED CLOSE** TO OLDBURY QUINTON BORDER & HAGLEY ROAD. Lounge & 22ft kitchen/diner/family room, 3 bedrooms on first floor, bathroom & loft room. Enclosed garden to rear. Majority UPVC double glazing & gas central heating - EPC rating E. Ref: D1521

£179,950 Ref: D1521

WOODBOURNE PLACE, QUINTON



BRAND NEW HOME - available with **HELP** TO **BUY** scheme. **CUL-DE-SAC** location on new development close to Tesco superstore & bus routes into Birmingham. 17ft **FITTED** kitchen diner with appliances leading to lawn rear garden. Lounge to front & downstairs WC. Master bedroom with **EN-SUITE** shower room. 2 further bedrooms & family bathroom - **WHITE** suite. GCH & DG fitted. **Blockpaved** driveway. EPC rating: Ref: D1558

£169,995 Ref: D1558

RIDGACRE RD WEST, QUINTON



EXTENDED & WELL PRESENTED home with **BLOCKPAVED** driveway giving off road parking to front. Lounge to front with **EXTENDED** 17ft kitchen diner to rear **WITH APPLIANCES**. Utility room also to rear. **REFITTED** bathroom & 3 bedrooms on 1st floor. Extensive rear garden. GCH & UPVC DG. EPC rating: TBC Ref: D1571

£167,500 Ref: D1571

RAMSAY ROAD, OLDBURY



MUCH IMPROVED 3 bed semi with off road parking **REFITTED** BREAKFAST KITCHEN & well proportioned lounge, utility room & d/s WC. **UPVC CONSERVATORY** to rear (2014). 3 bedrooms & **REFITTED** BATHROOM. **BLOCK PAVED** parking to front for multiple vehicles. **LOW MAINTENANCE** rear garden with **SUNNY ASPECT**. UPVC DG & GCH. EPC Rating D. Ref: D1515

£164,950 Ref: D1515

WEST BOULEVARD, QUINTON



LARGE 4 bedroom semi-detached home with gated **DRIVEWAY**. 25ft lounge diner & 14ft 9 kitchen. Having a downstairs bathroom. Four bedrooms & WC on first floor. Driveway giving off road parking for **SEVERAL** **VEHICLES**. Lawn garden to rear. Gas central heating & majority double glazing. EPC rating: D Ref: D1454

£159,950 Ref: D1454

MILCOTE ROAD, SMETHWICK



EXTENDED terraced home with **WESTERLY** facing rear garden close to Bearwood High Street & Lightwoods Park. 26ft lounge diner & 14ft modern kitchen leading to downstairs bathroom. 3 bedrooms and a WC on first floor. Gas central heating & majority UPVC double glazing fitted. **LOW MAINTENANCE** gardens to front & rear. EPC rating: E Ref: D1567

£149,950 Ref: D1567

WORLDS END LANE, QUINTON



WELL PRESENTED semi-detached home. Having 13ft dining room leading to a **REFITTED** kitchen. Separate 12ft lounge overlooking rear garden. 3 bedrooms & **REFITTED** bathroom on first floor. Rear garden having south westerly aspect with rear access. Gas central heating fitted throughout. EPC rating: D Ref: D1566

£132,500 Ref: D1566

QUINTON RD WEST, QUINTON



NO UPWARD CHAIN - **LARGE** 3 bedroom terraced home. 2 reception rooms & **REFITTED** kitchen, lean to rear verandah & d/s WC. **REFITTED** bathroom. Lawn gardens to both front & rear. Majority UPVC double glazing & gas central heating. EPC Rating D. Ref: D1572

£115,000 Ref: D1572

KNOWLE ROAD, ROWLEY REGIS



WELL PRESENTED SEMI DETACHED home with **DRIVEWAY** to front. Lounge, dining room & kitchen. 3 bedrooms & family bathroom with white suite on 1st floor. Off road parking to front & garden to rear. UPVC DBG and gas central heating. EPC rating: C Ref: D1561

£114,950 Ref: D1561

WORLDS END LANE, QUINTON



NO CHAIN - **EXTENDED** home with **DRIVEWAY** to front giving off road parking. 21ft lounge diner, **EXTRA** room to rear & 12ft kitchen. 2 **DOUBLE** bedrooms on first floor & bathroom with white suite. Gas central heating & majority UPVC double glazing. Lawn garden with **REAR** access & **GARAGE**. EPC rating: TBC Ref: D1574

£99,995 Ref: D1574

COOMBS ROAD, HALESOWEN



NO UPWARD CHAIN - 1st floor maisonette with **PARKING** to rear. 14ft lounge with **WESTERLY** views to rear, with kitchen to front. 2 **DOUBLE** bedrooms & fitted shower room. 13ft ATTIC room with velux windows & WC. Communal lawn gardens to rear. 99 year lease from June 1986. EPC rating: D Ref: D1570

£99,950 Ref: D1570

LONG LANE, HALESOWEN



NO CHAIN - **REFURBISHED** ground floor apartment with **PARKING** to rear. **REFITTED** kitchen with double doors leading to 12ft lounge with **MODERN** fittings. **REFITTED** bathroom with white suite & LED downlights. **DOUBLE** bedroom with built in wardrobes. UPVC double glazing & electric heating. Communal lawn gardens. EPC rating: E Ref: D1573

£73,995 Ref: d1573

Hicks Hadley

hickshadley.com
0121 585 6667

Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management



HALESOWEN, Newton Court£725 pcm+Fees
A recently converted 3 bedroom ground floor apartment finished to an extremely high standard and centrally located with commuter links to Halesowen and Birmingham. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, both with fitted wardrobes, 2 bathrooms, 1 single bedroom, 2 extra rooms downstairs, secondary glazing throughout. Allocated parking. Viewings recommended. EPC: C



AMBLECOTE, High Street £725 pcm+Fees
A fantastic opportunity to rent a new build home on a select development. Featuring homes of 3 generous size bedrooms (master with en-suite) finished to an exceptional standard. Featuring spacious lounge/dining areas, well appointed kitchens, downstairs WC, 3 bedrooms with family bathroom & master bedroom with en-suite, 2 allocated parking spaces, front & rear gardens. These homes will not be available for long. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Melbourne Road£695 pcm+Fees
Within walking distance to Halesowen, is this 3 story town house. Well worth an inspection inside and set within a quiet cul-de-sac, comprising of: 3 bedrooms, large fitted dining kitchen, very large lounge, downstairs wc, house bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, off road parking for 2 cars and garage, close to local schools and college. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Haden Hill Road£695 pcm+Fees
Fully refurbished to a very high standard 3 bedroom detached house close to Halesowen Town Centre. This lovely property has a reception room, brand new fitted kitchen with oven/hob, dining room with patio doors leading to a private rear garden, upstairs are 2 double bedrooms & 1 single, brand new fitted family bathroom with shower. Driveway for 2 cars. EPC: B



ROWLEY REGIS, Fairbourne Avenue£675 pcm+Fees
Perfect for a family and close to the M5. A large Mucklow Style detached home which is available now, close to local shops and bus routes. Featuring 2 double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes and 1 large single bedroom, 2 good size lounges, large kitchen, downstairs wc, shower room, gas central heating, new windows, huge rear garden, driveway and garage. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Sanderson Place£650 pcm+Fees
Luxury living in Hayley Green. A superb ground floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Haden Hill Road£625 pcm+Fees
A great size house close to Halesowen and buses to Halesowen and Cradley Heath just outside. This home features 2 reception rooms, dining kitchen, downstairs w.c, 3 good size bedrooms, bathroom with separate shower. Benefits also include gas central heating, front and rear gardens, garage, driveway. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Hunnington Crescent£650 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished semi detached house in this very popular central location of Halesowen, featuring gas central heating, living/dining room, fitted kitchen, 3 good sized bedrooms, bathroom with shower, front & rear gardens, garage & driveway parking. Available March. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, The Pumphouse£595 pcm+Fees
Contemporary fully furnished luxury living. Generous sized lounge with state of the art SKY+HD/TV/DAB chrome sockets, 1 double bedroom with fitted wardrobes, wall mounted LCD/DVD, stunning fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, beautiful bathroom with shower, electric central heating, allocated parking space with visitor spaces, secure ported access phone system, viewing highly recommended. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Ladysmith Road£550 pcm+Fees
A mid terraced house in a sought after area for Colley Lane Primary School, bus links to Halesowen and Stourbridge. This house features 2 reception rooms, dining kitchen with oven/hob, dining area, new downstairs shower room, 2 good size bedrooms, double glazing, gas central heating, rear garden. EPC: B



CRADLEY HEATH, Meadow Walk£550 pcm+Fees
Modern semi detached house within a popular residential area featuring gas central heating, spacious living room, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs house bathroom, 3 good size bedrooms, large rear garden, driveway parking for 2 cars. Available immediately EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Bloomfield Street North£525 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished semi detached house within walking distance of Newfield Park Primary, Windsor High School and Halesowen College. This property features 2 reception rooms, 2 double bedrooms both with fitted wardrobes, downstairs bathroom with shower, upstairs shower room, fitted kitchen, gas central heating, double glazing. EPC: E



STOURBRIDGE, Churchill Drive£525 pcm+Fees
Lovely spacious 3 bedroom semi-detached home is available in this quiet cul-de-sac. Features include large living room, dining room and modern fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, downstairs bathroom and further shower room upstairs with 2 double and 1 single bedroom. Driveway parking. EPC: D



WORDSLEY Cooknell Drive£525 pcm+Fees
Located in the centre of Wordsley and ideal for local buses to Stourbridge and Merry Hill. Featuring gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted dining kitchen, 2 bedrooms, en-suite shower room to master bedroom, house bathroom, rear garden, driveway parking. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Ladysmith Road£525 pcm+Fees
A beautiful mid terrace house in a sought after area for Colley Lane Primary School, bus links to Halesowen and Stourbridge. This house features 2 reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, 2 good size bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, rear garden. A property not to be missed! EPC: B



KIDDERMINSTER, Keats Place£495 pcm+Fees
A well presented 2 bedroom ground floor flat, having accommodation including: hall, lounge, refitted kitchen with appliances, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing and cul de sac location. Virgin Broadband connection is available. Own entrance to the property. EPC: C



CRADLEY HEATH, Elbow Street£475 pcm+Fees
Situated in a quiet location, within walking distance to Old Hill town and local train station this unfurnished ground floor flat comprising electric storage heating, large living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, communal gardens, allocated parking. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Belgrave Road£450 pcm+Fees
A large ground floor modern apartment within walking distance to Blackheath Town Centre and local buses. Featuring a spacious lounge, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, 1 double bedroom, newly fitted bathroom suite with shower. Gas central heating, small rear garden with private entrance. Available Now. EPC: B



ROWLEY REGIS, The Link £425 pcm+Fees
Located close to the M5 J2 is this quiet and spacious unfurnished ground floor apartment, briefly comprising of electric storage heating, open plan living room/fitted kitchen with white goods, 1 double bedroom with built in wardrobe, house bathroom with shower, parking space to rear. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Howley Grange Road£410 pcm+Fees
Part furnished 2 bedroom flat available in this popular location, gas central heating, living room/fitted kitchen with archway through to a double bedroom, shower room, allocated parking. Gas (in winter months) and water rates included in the rental. EPC: C



LYE, High Street £375 pcm+Fees
Fully refurbished in the centre of Lye. This spacious 2nd floor apartment features a lovely lounge, 1 double bedroom, bathroom, modern and contemporary kitchen/ diner, electric heating, double glazing, on road parking. Available now. EPC: E

PROPERTY

Improved semi-detached can boast own sunroom



THIS improved three-bedroom semi-detached property in Barlow Road, Wednesbury, is for sale through Connells at £135,000.

With ample off-road parking, double glazing and majority gas central heating, it has a lounge with wall-mounted fire, kitchen with tile effect laminate flooring and door to sunroom with laminate flooring, three bedrooms, bathroom, slabbed garden with two sheds and a front driveway. Call 0121 5562338 or visit www.connells.co.uk



End of terrace with two lounges and bathrooms



THIS THREE-BEDROOMED end of terrace property in Hall Street East, Wednesbury, has spacious accommodation.

It is for sale through Goodchilds at £130,000.

With double glazing and gas central heating it has a spacious lounge, further dining room/lounge, and a modern kitchen with range of base and wall units, roll edge work tops, built in extractor hood, stainless steel sink and draining and tiled flooring.

The double bedroom has the benefit of built-in wardrobes and there are two further bedrooms. The house has two bathrooms, one with bath and the other with shower.

The property also has a rear garden. For further information contact Goodchilds on 0121 5067670 or visit www.goodchilds-uk.com website.





OLDBURY | £190,000

- Detached Bungalow EPC Rating D
- Lounge Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms Shower Room W/c
- Garage Drive Front and Rear Gardens

quinton@your-move.co.uk
0121 421 7766



QUINTON | £189,950

- Traditional Semi Detached EPC Rating F
- Two Reception Kitchen Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Side Garage Driveway Rear Garden

quinton@your-move.co.uk
0121 421 7766



OLDBURY | £170,000

- Traditional Semi Detached EPC Rating E
- Lounge and Kitchen/Diner
- Three Bedrooms and Bathroom/W/c To
- Drive To The Front Garden To The Rear

quinton@your-move.co.uk
0121 421 7766



OLDBURY | £170,000

- Traditional Semi Detached EPC Rating D
- Lounge Open Plan Kitchen-Diner
- Three Bedrooms and Bathroom W/c
- Gardens To The Front and Rear

quinton@your-move.co.uk
0121 421 7766



BARTLEY GREEN | £162,500

- Modern Semi Detached EPC Rating D
- Open Plan Lounge-Diner Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Shower Room W/c
- Side Garage Driveway Rear Garden

quinton@your-move.co.uk
0121 421 7766



QUINTON | £149,950

- Semi Detached EPC Rating D
- Through Lounge/Dining Room Kitchen
- Four Bedrooms Downstairs Bathroom
- Drive To The Front Garden To The Rear

quinton@your-move.co.uk
0121 421 7766



QUINTON | £140,000

- Semi Detached EPC Rating E
- Lounge and Kitchen-Dining Room
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Benefits From No Upward Chain.

quinton@your-move.co.uk
0121 421 7766



OLDBURY | £138,000

- Modern End Town House EPC Rating C
- Lounge-Diner Fitted Kitchen Cloaks W/c
- Three Bedrooms bathroom W/c
- Two Car Drive Garden To The Rear

quinton@your-move.co.uk
0121 421 7766



QUINTON | £110,000

- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Dining Kitchen Cloakroom W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Gardens To The Front and Rear

quinton@your-move.co.uk
0121 421 7766



QUINTON | £125,000

- End Of Terrace Property EPC Rating C
- Lounge/Dining Kitchen Store Room
- Two Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Front Garden Rear Garden and Garage

quinton@your-move.co.uk
0121 421 7766



OLDBURY | £120,000

- Traditional Semi Detached EPC Rating D
- Lounge Kitchen Downstairs Bathroom
- Three Bedrooms To The First Floor
- Driveway To The Front Rear Garden

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OLDBURY | £92,950

- Traditional Mid Terrace EPC Rating D
- Two Reception Kitchen and Cellar.
- Three Bedrooms and Bathroom W/c
- Property Is In Need of Modernisation

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QUINTON | £70,000

- Ground Floor Flat EPC Rating D
- Lounge/Dining Room Fitted Kitchen
- Double Bedroom Shower Room W/c
- Shared Rear Garden No Upward Chain

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BARTLEY GREEN | £65,000

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- Lounge Kitchen
- Double Bedroom Bathroom W/c
- No Upward Chain

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OLDBURY | £54,000

- Retirement Apartment EPC Rating C
- Lounge Kitchen Bedroom Shower Room
- Phone Entry System Emergency Chords
- Non Allocated Secure Parking Area

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WOODGATE VALLEY | £650

- Three Storey Town House EPC Rating E
- Lounge Kitchen Diner To First Floor
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom Separate W/c
- Integral Garage Drive Rear Garden

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OLDBURY | £550

- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D
- Two Reception Rooms Kitchen W/c
- Two Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Gardens To The Front and Rear

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HALESOWEN | £550

- Two Floor Maisonette EPC Rating C
- Lounge Dining Kitchen To Ground Floor
- Two Bedrooms Shower Room Sep W/c
- Garage In A Separate Block.

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ROWLEY REGIS | £475

- Second Floor Apartment EPC Rating D
- Lounge Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/C
- Allocated Parking Area

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ROWLEY REGIS | £425

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Safety first on motorways

By James Parker

Drivers need to put safety first on motorway journeys says breakdown cover specialist GEM Motoring Assist.

GEM chief executive David Williams MBE offered some reassurance for drivers: "Motorways may be the fastest roads we use, but they are statistically also the safest; and there are fewer collisions on motorways than on other roads," he said.

"However, the high speeds used on motorways mean that when there is a crash, it is likely to be more serious.

"That's why on average around one in 50 motorway collisions is fatal, compared with one in 70 on all other roads."

The risks are greatest on motorways in the following situations:

- When there is insufficient time and space between vehicles travelling at high speed.
- When drivers are avoidably distracted – often by using a mobile phone, re-setting the satnav or attempting to eat and drink at the wheel.
- As a result of poor lane discipline – for example, driving in the middle lane when the left hand lane is empty, or from changing lanes without proper observations or signalling.
- When traffic is heavy and motorway speeds are constantly varying, largely due to the frustration experienced when traffic is light and there is little or nothing to engage the attention of a driver on a long journey.

It's at these times that alertness can drop and concentration can dip, making it easy to miss a developing hazard.

● Around junctions, when drivers are leaving or joining the motorway. Too often drivers make last-minute decisions, and end up cutting across lanes of traffic to get off the motorway or into the correct lane if the carriageway is about to split. Busy urban stretches of motorway are particularly risky, as there are often several junctions and intersections across short distances.

David Williams added: "By acknowledging these risks, you are taking a big step toward making a motorway journey safer."

GEM has compiled 10 tips for safer motorway driving:

1. Plan your journey so you know when to join and leave the motorway.
- You're far less likely to be taken by surprise when it comes to choosing the correct lane at junctions and intersections.
2. Choose a safe speed and use the left hand lane unless overtaking.
3. Check your following distance by the 'two second rule'.
- Watch the vehicle in front go past a signpost, under a bridge or past some other reference point.
4. Then speak out: "Only a fool breaks the two second rule." If you pass the same point before you have finished the sentence, then you are too close.
5. Double your following distance in wet weather.
6. Scan the road a long way ahead so that you have early sight of developing hazards.
7. Make regular mirror checks. If you observe a fast-approaching vehicle, then take steps to move out of its way.
8. Before changing lanes, check your mirrors and blind spots, and indicate your intention to move either left or right. Only commence the manoeuvre when you know you can complete it safely.
9. Avoid any sort of distraction. No mobile phone, no interfering with stereo or satnav, no eating or drinking.
10. Give 100 percent of your attention to driving.
10. If you miss your motorway exit, don't make last-minute risky manoeuvres to leave the motorway.
- Continue to the next junction and turn around, or follow the revised satnav instructions.



GEM has compiled 10 tips for safer motorway driving.

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Official Fuel Consumption Figures for the Suzuki Alto range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Urban 54.3-54.3 (5.2-5.2), Extra Urban 74.3-74.3 (3.8-3.8), Combined 65.7-65.7 (4.3-4.3), CO₂ emissions 99-99 g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. *Model shown Alto SZ available from £5,999 (Metallic paint available at £3,999). **VAT free offer on Alto SZ. Alto 1.0 SZ available from £5,999, including customer saving of £1,200 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £7,199 (SZ). Manual transmission only. VAT equivalent reduction is not available on vehicle options or accessories. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st January 2015 to 31st March 2015 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. 1Manual transmission only.

<p>CITROEN</p> <p>54 C3 1.6 Vti Exc Auto, Red, 5 £6,995</p> <p>59 C3 Picasso 1.6 HDi Excl, Red, 5k £7,995</p> <p>59 C3 Picasso 1.6 HDi VTR+, 9k £7,995</p> <p>61 C3 Picasso 1.6 HDi VTR+, Blue, 25k £7,495</p> <p>11 C4 G Picasso 1.6 HDi VTR+ EGS, Red, 10k £10,795</p> <p>61 C4 G Picasso 1.76 HDi VTR+ EGS, Red, 27k £9,995</p> <p>61 C4 G Picasso 1.6 HDi VTR+ EGS, Silver, 4k £11,495</p> <p>61 C4 G Picasso 1.6 HDi VTR+ EGS, Grey, 3k £10,495</p> <p>57 C4 Picasso 1.6 HDi VTR+ EGS, Blue, 52k £5,295</p> <p>61 C4 Picasso 1.6 HDi VTR+ EGS, Grey, 3k £10,995</p> <p>57 C4 Picasso 1.6 HDi VTR+ Gold, 34k £5,495</p> <p>61 DS3 1.6 VTiDstyle, Auto, Blue, 15k £8,995</p> <p>07 Picasso 1.6 HDi VTX, Red, 86k £2,495</p> <p>FORD</p> <p>12 Fiesta 1.2 Zetec, Silver, 18k £7,995</p> <p>61 Focus 1.6 Zetec, Auto, 23k £9,995</p> <p>11 Focus 1.6 Zetec, Black, 20k £7,995</p> <p>10 Fusion 1.4 TCDi Zetec, Grey, 24k £5,795</p> <p>09 Mondeo 2.0 TDCi Zetec 140, Silver, 77k £5,795</p> <p>NISSAN</p> <p>61 Juke 1.6 Acenta, Red, 19k £9,795</p>	<p>RENAULT</p> <p>61 Gr Modus 1.5DCi Dyn, Silver, 11k £6,995</p> <p>61 Gr Modus 1.6 Dyna Auto, Ice Blue, 24k £5,995</p> <p>61 Gr Modus 1.6 Dynamique, Auto, 15k £6,695</p> <p>11 Gr Scenic 1.5 DCi Exp, Auto, Stone, 22k £7,995</p> <p>60 Kangoo Wheel/Chair Access, Auto, 15k £8,995</p> <p>61 Scenic 1.5 DCi Dyn, Tomtom, Silver, 15k £9,495</p> <p>VAUXHALL</p> <p>08 Astra 1.6 Twin Top, 98k £3,990</p>
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By James Parker

With changes externally, internally and under the bonnet the results are an elegant yet striking sports saloon which exudes attitude on the outside with its new shape LED headlights and chromes accents on

Both with improved efficiency and CO2 emissions at 129g/km and 145g/km respectively, the Premium is priced at a more than competitive price of £32,650 with all standard models coming equipped with rear view cameras, front and rear parking sensors, Connectivity+ navigation, 18-



More information about Infiniti can also be found at www.infiniti.co.uk

The collage consists of ten overlapping pages from UK car magazines. The visible headlines and content include:

- new reg** Fiat's MPV with big attitude
- new reg** Supermini setting a Trem
- new reg** Qashqai - the next generation
- new reg** Honda's small estate thrill
- new reg** Renault duo gets a boost
- new reg** Merc crossover is Class act
- new reg** All you need to worry about is the fuel at the pump
- new reg** High tech, Low cost
- new reg** Drive happily soon after
- new reg** The all new GLE

Other visible text includes "EXTENDED WARRANTY", "0% APR", "£2800", "Drive happily soon after", "The all new GLE", and various car models like "Fiat MPV", "Supermini", "Qashqai", "Honda Civic", "Renault duo", and "Mercedes GLE".

Express & Star



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JUNE 50, beautiful, funny, warm, young
looking blonde WLTm attractive down to
earth male for no strings fun, laughter and
love. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 416299**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored,
seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls
answered. Tel No: **0905 002 1883 Box No: 413399**

SHELLY 36, tiny shy brunette seeks down to
earth, sensitive, older male to snuggle up,
share a bottle of wine with and pamper. Tel
No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 416235**

ADVENTUROUS sexy lady, 38yrs, married
but seeks no strings fun with discreet man,
any age. I'm tall, slim and dominant. Aca. Tel
No: **0905 002 1937 Box No: 415301**

KATHERINE 33, pretty blonde would love to
get intimate with outgoing, fit guy who is also
looking for fun relationship with no strings.
ACA. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 416197**

ANNE, mid 40's, cheerful busty curvy affec-
tionate real woman! Seeks gent, any age or
looks for nights at home. Tel No: **0905 002 1953 Box No: 410291**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking
male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

DISCREET lady, 42yrs wants to make you
happy, come to me and let me do that for you.
ACA. Tel No: **0905 002 1957 Box No: 409901**

PAT 5ft 2ins, medium build, attractive, blonde
hair, 26, seeking N/S, sincere gent for
friendship and days out. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 416057**

ALISON, 27, busty, shapely lady seeks fun
only with broad minded man. Aca. Tel No: **0905 002 1961 Box No: 416073**

ALICE 36, tall and slim with long brown hair,
outgoing and sporty seeks funny, intelligent
guy to share active days and cosy nights.
Age/looks not important. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 416087**

JANET, 36yrs Scottish lady, too shy to go out
but loves to chat from home. Will answer all
texts. Text Only Mailbox Box No: **4627442**

DIANE 37, sensual, tactile and loving seeks
tall male for interesting conversations and
cosy intimate nights together. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 416085**

MELANIE, sophisticated solvent brunette
with working man of any age, 1m 32yrs. Tel
Only Mailbox Box No: **4627443**

BRIDGET 48, voluptuous, seductive and very
saucy, seeks male for lots of TLC and to
make very happy in return. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 416083**

LINDY, new to area, hoping to meet kind
many of any age, looks unimportant. 1m 43yrs
blonde and petite. Text Only Mailbox Box
No: **4627444**

ATTRACTIVE tall, dark, professional gent,
GSOH, likes sports, socialising, good
company, seeking female with GSOH for
laughs, conversation and maybe more. Tel
No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415969**

PAMELA, married to boring man! Text only
for fun phone frolics. Text Only Mailbox Box
No: **4624149**

ATTRACTIVE professional widow, 73, WLTm
seeks caring gentle widower for friendship,
meals in, conversation and to put a smile on
our faces. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415951**

JULIA, seeks fifty shades of grey! You
should be strong minded and seeking fun.
Text Only Mailbox Box No: **4627445**

KAREN 50, widow, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue
eyes, slim, seeks gent with GSOH, loving,
caring and understanding. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415871**

KAREN 50, widow, blonde hair, GSOH, 5ft
5ins, slim, seeks male. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415767**

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SUSIE bubbly blonde looking for fun.
Age/looks unimportant but must have a
sense of adventure. Can travel and accom-
modate. Text Only Mailbox Box No: **4624145**

GWEN middle aged, 65-75, 5ft 2ins, likes
theatre, country music, holidays, seeks N/S
male. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415785**

PHILLIPA 22yrs just left boarding school,
hoping to meet experienced working class
man for real life fun. Text Only Mailbox Box
No: **4624147**

ASIA very attractive slim single black 32yr
female looking for fun times with god time guy
with GSOH and a real passion for life and
falling in love. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415837**

SLIM brunette 36yrs hoping to meet older
gent for friendship, fun, maybe more. Text
Only Mailbox Box No: **4624146**

SARAH 31yrs looking for casual 1-2-1 no
strings fun with broadminded bored male.
Status unimportant, discretion and mutual
respect essential. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415821**

PAMMY 42yrs, recently divorced and fancies
becoming a "cougar", Text Only Mailbox
Box No: **4624148**

LINDA uncomplicated female who loves the
simple things in life, looking for N/S male with
GSOH for nights in/out, no games, users and
time wasters please. s Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415535**

PATRICIA widow 67, likes simple pleasures in
life, seeking a gent, N/S for
friendship/companionship maybe more. Tel
No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415685**

GEM 34yr old pretty brunette with lovely big
eyes and nice skin, many interests, WLTm
kind tallish male, 30-50yrs for serious
relationship. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415571**

SYLVIA attractive blonde size 12 45yr old
female looking for genuine companionship,
someone to spend quality times with, enjoy
music and cosy times together. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415543**

HOME alone far too often, attractive bubbly
fun good time girl 32yrs seeking male 30-
50yrs for broadminded daytime fun. Let's rid
the boredom! Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415523**

SUE attractive, independent, confident
female, sporty, petite, loves the Arts, good
books, looking for romantic, sensible nice
guy for nice times together. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415501**

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KAREN medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins,
seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and
understanding. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429**

AMANDA 5ft 4ins slim fit attractive, enjoys
the outdoors, nice wine, theatre etc. seeking
romantic considerate soul mate to broaden
my horizons. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415391**

SAM attractive single mum who really enjoys
life and likes to be happy WLTm genuine
single male/dad for mutual companionship,
dates in/out and tic. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415381**

KAREN medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins,
seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and
understanding. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429**

KAREN 50, widow, blonde hair, GSOH, 5ft
5ins, slim, seeks male. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415767**

239R old Asian female, seeks sugar daddy,
any age for fun and much more. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415367**

YOUNG looking female, likes rock music,
concerts, theatre, seeks Rock male with
similar interests for relationship. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415249**

MANDY very attractive, slim single mum
36yrs, employed, OHAC, looking to share
some quality times with similar genuine kind
hearted social male/dad. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415409**

DIANE attractive singleton seeks male to
have some fun with, meals out, cinema,
dancing and just see were things lead from
there. Age/rae unimportant. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415373**

SHELIA Asian 20yr old female, very pretty,
feminine with long hair, enjoys nights in or
out, seeking mature white male 55plus for
discreet fun. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415181**

MARGARET 39, attractive active female
likes animals, reading, meals in/out, seeking
considerate partner for good laughs
companionship, shared interests and more.
Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414727**

KAREN 50, widow, likes swimming, horse
riding, keep fir, clay pigeon shooting, GSOH
N/S, non drinker, seeks male. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415211**

BUBBLY larger than life 28yr old blonde
bombshell, seeks large built male to fulfill my
every fantasy! Give me a call: I will totally
make your day maybe even your year. Tel
No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414977**

BARBARA 38 slim sporty attractive blonde,
varied interests, single and ready to date,
seeks kind honest guy for shared interests,
fun nights out, hopefully leading to more. Tel
No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414967**

JULIE single petite attractive big blue eyed
brunette, loves cooking a cosy meal in, nights
out, searching for real love with genuinely
nice guy. Looks unimportant. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414491**

GOOD looking professional lady, 56, enjoys
the arts, country walks, meals out, seeks
compatible, genuine, professional gent to
enjoy the good things in life. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415007**

CATH 37yr old very bored housewife seeking
bored male for some fun times. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414497**

ANITA seeking nice man in the West
Midlands, looking for romantic companionship, maybe
more. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 413765**

JANET tall beautiful brunette, slim 12,
separated, enjoys life, no hang-ups, wanting
quality time, friendship and possible romance
with similar guy. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 413415**

SONYA slim attractive vibrant lady with
GSOH, social nature, fit/active, WLTm N/S
male up to 60yrs for romantic genuine
respectful relationship, loving. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 413441**

SOPHIA very sensual black lady looking to
acquire a new distraction with lots of adult fun
thrown in for good measure. Race/age/status
unimportant. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 413399**

EMMA petite slim blue eyed blonde 22yrs,
likes cinema, dancing/music, just chillin,
seeking easygoing male for fun and good
times but nothing serious. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 413207**

NICOLA 32, blue eyes, petite, pretty
brunette, shy at first, trustworthy, caring,
varied hobbies, seeks male/single dad up to
40yrs for tic possible lr. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414707**

EUROPEAN beauty romantic, caring,
attractive, looking for loving male to enjoy
warm loving relationship with, call me to find
out more. ACA. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 413013**

KAREN 34 blue/green eyed size 12 attractive
brunette who loves pubs, cosy nights in, kids,
seeking special honest guy/dad for poss lr. Tel
No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 413005**

ROSA 27yrs sexy senorita seeking older
handsome prince charming to whisk me off
my feet, enjoy fun times, improve my English
and fall in love with. Age/rae unimportant.
Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 412927**

RITA attractive blonde with a very kind heart
seeks special man to share my life with
Please get in touch if like me you are fed up
with always being the single friend. Tel No:
0906 500 3955 Box No: 412987

JANE 5ft5ins slim pretty lady in great shape,
open-minded, laidback, GSOH, OHAC, many
interests, WLTm someone for cuddling up
with and to share good and bad times. ACA.
Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 412931**

ANN slim attractive N/S lady who is easy to
get along with, looking for romantic
interesting man for new adventures together,
hopefully lr. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 412911**

JULIE loving, caring, honest, seeks real gent
to share conversation and have a great time,
friendship/relationship, who knows? Tel No:
0906 500 3955 Box No: 412777

SALLY stunning lady looking for dinner
dates, partying and generally having a good
time with generous man looking for his mojo!
No strings, go on call me. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 412599**

DEBS petite attractive auburn haired, good
listener, romantic, enjoys socialising, cosy
nights in with Mr Right, seeking similar caring
N/S single dad. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 412387**

JAN slim curvy professional woman,
affectionate, looking to fill full time vacancy
with similar male who loves cuddles/kisses
and bikes for romance. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 412167**

ATTRACTIVE slim brunette, 47, N/S, seeks
tall, slim male for a cut above the average
relationship. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 412725**

KAREN pretty blonde, short in stature, big
personality, keeps fit, loves dogs, seeking
honest, caring male who can make me laugh.
Nothing too serious just fun. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 412377**

JEAN petite female who enjoys golf, days
out, cosy evenings in, holidays, WLTm older
male in his 60's with a good personality and
big heart. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 412599**

JULIE really fun loving slim pretty female 38
looking for nice guy to go out with, get to
know and hopefully enjoy a relationship with.
Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411517**

GWENDOLINE honest, trustworthy, seeks
caring gent who enjoys cinema, theatre,
holidays and nights out for friendship. Tel No:
0906 500 3955 Box No: 412293

DIANE voluptuous curvy and all woman,
loves dancing, walking, cosy nights in, WLTm
nice man for friendship, hopefully leading to
something more. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 412321**

SARA bored blonde looking for single gent
for fun, chats and meals, looking forward to
hearing from you, don't be shy. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 412055**

EMMA petite young looking 31yr old
attractive single brunette, loves walking,
talking, music, seeks honest romantic 30-
40yrs. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 412037**

TARA 22 tall slim but curvy with legs that go
all the way up to heaven, WLTm very
appreciative confident male for adult fun.
Contact me anytime. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414701**

ANNABELL 29 slim sophisticated well
travelled interesting sensual fit brunette with
lots to offer seeks older male to appreciate
and treat me well. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 412177**

KAREN slim, tall, attractive 36yr old normal
female who likes shopping, socialising, nights
in/out seeking thoughtful genuine male. Tel
No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 412041**

Men seeking women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53
per minute plus network ex-
tras. Texts cost £1.50 per mes-
sage sent.

34YR old slim, dark haired, creative,
adventurous, likes music, cycling and
photography, seeks likeminded female to
share fun and happiness with. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753**

MIKE 50, tall, slim, seeks fun times with
tall lady, Leek area. Lets have fun or just
good chats. Text Only Mailbox Box No:
4633020

PAUL 56, works part time, seeking nice lady,
65-65 with GSOH, honest, genuine and
understanding. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 416017**

MALE 69, laidback, easy going, GSOH, likes
golf, nights in, seeking lady, 65-72 for
relationship. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 416029**

MATTHEW, 43 widower, business manager,
solvent, reasonable looks but lonely. Text
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NICK 52, 6ft, slim, genuine, seeking slim
female for relationship. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415881**

GENT 53, 5ft 11ins, brown eyes,
distinguished, seeking attractive lady, 30-45
for discreet fun. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415809**

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relationship. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415873**

JAS 40, looking for attractive young female
for good times and socialising. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415805**

FIT 68yr old male, feels 40, looks 30,
genuine, seeks N/S female 66-72 with GSOH
to share fun times and LTR. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415787**

MARK 6ft, slim, blue eyes, dark hair, seeking
that special lady. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415697**

MALE 47, medium build, seeks female, 40-
50 for fun and friendship. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415651**

JOHN 46, West Midlands, seeks local
black/Asian female, 30-70 for discreet adult fun,
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fun and good times. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 415253**

PHIL 57, OHAC, discreet, seeks no strings
fun with younger female. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414991**

GARY 6ft 2ins, dark hair, brown eyes,
medium build, likes nights in/out, seeks
female, 30-50. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414845**

SLIM male, 59, seeks no strings adult fun
with broadminded mature woman, 65 plus.
Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414983**

ROY 6ft 2ins, late 50's, seeks female. Tel No:
0906 500 3955 Box No: 414775

SEAN looking for female to share a coffee,
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essential, seeks equivalent lady, 45-60 for
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TRUSTWORTHY fit, active, caring, N/S, easy
going male, 68, GSOH, seeks warm, genuine
lady, 59-72 for LTR. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 414151**

Index

- 1 Family
- 2 Leisure Time
- 3 Home & Services
- 4 Pets & Animals
- 5 Business & Farming
- 6 Property
- 7 Jobs
- 8 Motoring
- 9 Local Information
- 10 Personals

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2

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3

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4

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5 Business & Farming

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6 Property

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MERCEDES A CLASS 140 04 reg, Petrol, over 58k, CD, Air-con. Good condition, slight fault. Hence price £775. 07515 370995.

NISSAN MICRA 1998, Automatic, 11 mths MoT, 59k, import so has AC, EW, front/back, 1000cc, £695 ono. 07572 236800/01902 495364

NISSAN TERRANO 4 x 4 2.7 diesel, 2001, autobox, 7 seater, 106,000 miles, just serviced, MoT until Jan 2016, 2 owners from new, £1,095 ono. SOLD

SAAB 93SE CONVERTIBLE, 1999, in family since 2003, vast history, private plate worth £250, needs MoT hence £550. 07765 607796.

SKODA FABIA 1.2, 2003 model, 47,000 miles, MoT, 2015. £900. 01902 564264 after 3pm.

SUZUKI ALTO GL, 03 reg, black, 41,106 miles, MoT July £30 a year tax, new parts fitted, £850 ono. Telephone 01902 785714.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2, 2000, MoT, 5Dr, CL, stereo, SR, good condition, ideal first car, excellent runner, £675 o.n.o. 07973 472238.

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VAUXHALL OMEGA, 2001, 62,600 miles, gold, abs, air con, MoT, auto, alloys, CD, gearbox fault. £400 ono. 07931 761846.

VW PASSAT 1.9TDI HI LINE, 04 reg, black, 110k, clean and reliable, MoT, £1,295. Telephone 07754 557861.

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CITROEN C4 VTR+, HDI 1.6, 59 plate, silver, 78,000 miles, 11 mths MoT, fsh, cruise control, air con, £3,750. 07796 274636.

HONDA JAZZ 1.4, 2010, red, semi automatic, 15,400 miles, 12 months MoT, £5,500. 07814 496613.

MAZDA 6 SAKATA 2005, 49,000 miles, Gold FSH, Full MoT. One owner from new. CD player. £2,750. 07973 667965.

MERCEDES A180 CDI, SE, diesel Classic, silver, 06, very good condition. MoT June, 63k, £3,750 ono. 01562 700890. 07515 022389.

NISSAN MICRA SPORT 2006, 53,700 miles, 1.6, 44mpg, fully loaded, silver, MoT, immaculate car. £2,295. 07725 403038

RENAULT GRANDE Espace, 85k miles, full MoT, one owner from new, X reg, immaculate, £2,050. 07975 839914. 01902 689400.

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public & legal notices

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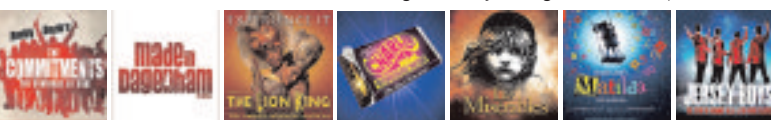
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Advertisements in local newspapers and websites are the most popular way of keeping an eye on the property market

SOURCE: The Newspaper Society - Consumer Catalyst 2014

Reunion looking for old fighters

THE search is on for boxers all over the region from yesteryear with plans to get them all together for a reunion evening later in the spring.

The West Midlands amateur scene boomed in the 1960s, with a plethora of area champions and England internationals across the divisions.

Roy Harris was running Wednesfield Boxing Club at the time and, to celebrate his 80th birthday at the end of April, is organising the event.

He's hoping to trace his stable-mates along with former fighters from the Wolverhampton and Bilston Police gyms, along with a large Shropshire contingent.

The Addison (Roy and Malcolm), Wilbrey (John, Tony and Colin), Clift (Harry, Joe and Norman), Worley (Colin and 'Tiger') and Marston (Mick and Tommy) brothers are all invited.

Other names include Brian Myatt, Alan Rickhuss and Mick Gardner.

The Shropshire-based bunch are John 'Kingston' Elliott, 'Pip' Taylor and Mick O'Connell.

If you were involved with these gyms, call Roy on 01922 411 770 (mornings) or 01922 40 1215 (evenings).

Varnish is picked for Team GB

JESS VARNISH and Andy Tennant have both been included in the Great Britain team for the Track World Championships later this month.

Halesowen Cycling Club's Varnish leads the women's sprint squad, which also features former heptathlete Katy Marchant.

Tennant, from Wolverhampton, is in a men's endurance team that includes Steven Burke and will contest the team pursuit on the opening day of the February 18 to 22 competition.

Olympic champion Burke has recovered from a broken collarbone to make the tournament in Paris.

Champion Joanna Rowsell leads the women's endurance group.

Under-21s can't find the net at seaside

Brighton Under-21s 0 Albion Under-21s 0

TONY Pulis was given a possible boost to his choice of team on Saturday when Jonas Olsson, who has been plagued by a nagging injury, and Jason Davidson both played the full 90 minutes as the Baggies' Under-21s were held to a goalless draw at Brighton.

A long-standing heel problem kept Sweden international Olsson out for four months, with his last action coming in the 3-2 Capital One Cup win over Hull City. Now there is a possibility he could make his first team return for the cup clash against

Football

West Ham on Saturday. Davidson was making his first appearance back in the Albion colours since returning home from Australia's triumphant Asian Cup campaign.

James Shan's men started brightly, and could have gone ahead after just four minutes only for Brighton keeper Harry Doherty to deny Wales Under-16 forward Tyler Roberts from close range to keep the scoreboard clean for both sides.

Adil Nabi then forced a superb fingertip

save from Doherty, before Kemar Roofe headed straight at the stubborn Seagulls stopper who had little trouble keeping the ball out of the net.

After the break, George Cole tried his luck from long distance for the South-Coast side, and then Shamir Fenlon's effort was kept out of the net by Baggies' keeper Alex Palmer.

Adil Nabi, Alex Jones and Roberts all had chances to win the game, but Albion were unable break the deadlock and had to settle for a share of the points.

However, the result does extend the

youngsters unbeaten run to eight league games in the Barclays Under-21 Premier League division 2, and leaves them just one point off the top of the table.

Albion: Palmer, Atkinson, Olsson, Davidson, Howkins, Birch, S. Nabi, A. Nabi, Roofe, Roberts, Barrow (Jones 60).

Unused Subs: Vaikla, Pace, Cleet, Smart.

Meanwhile, Pulis will welcome goalkeeper Boaz Myhill back to the substitutes' bench for Premier League game against Swansea at The Hawthorns after he missed the last two games with a gash caused by a dislocated thumb.

Dunne deal as single goal wins

Millwall 1 Blues 0

MILLWALL captain Alan Dunne boosted his side's Championship survival hopes with a match-winning strike in a priceless 1-0 victory at St Andrew's that dealt another blow to Birmingham's rapidly fading play-off hopes.

Long-serving Dunne earned Ian Holloway's side a deserved three points when he headed home in the 51st minute.

It capped an impressive display by Millwall, who tasted victory for the second time in three games and now remain in the drop zone on goal difference alone as they lie level on points with 21st-placed Brighton.

While Millwall have found some form, Gary Rowett's Birmingham struggled to really get into their stride as their poor run continued.

Blues have not won since beating Wigan back on January 10 and have now taken just four points from their last five games.

Millwall, who had been beaten 3-1 at home by Huddersfield in their previous match, made the kind of bright start that belied their lowly position in the table.

Birmingham's defence failed to deal with the ball and Dunne reacted fastest to nod home.

Hales grab victory in must-win game

Old Halesonians 31 Scunthorpe 10

THIS was a must win game for Hales if they were to stay in contention with the league leaders.

Both sides immediately tested each others defences. The visitors took the initiative through a strong rolling maul, which eventually led to the first points of the day with a well-taken drop goal after 15 minutes.

Hales came back with a number of great set piece moves, which included a stolen scrummage inside their 22. Scrum half Nathan Jones fed wing Luke Smith who ran almost the length of the pitch before being taken into touch 15 metres out.



The home pack was again dominant with Louis Padian, Pete Fitzgerald and Skipper Rich Taylor again in the driving seat at set scrums. Both sides were competing well for territory over the next 10 minutes. On 30 minutes the Hales pack took a scrum against them head on, fly half, Gareth Bown fed Wing Warren Oliver.

He went in a mazy run through the defence, offloaded the ball to the ever present Tom Jordan to score, who found the gap to go over for a brilliantly worked first try, converted by Chris Hooper for the lead.

The remainder of the first half saw Hales taking control of the game in most areas of the field. Then came the unexpected try of the game. Hales won a line out on half way and Mark Evans co-ordinated a driving maul.

Loosehead prop, Padian received the ball and ran

Rugby

at the opposition selling an outrageous dummy to the opposite centres, off he steamed. As a former back row player no one from his own side could catch him.

On the opposition 22 he sold another dummy to the full back for a classic try converted by Hooper. Despite the lead, Scunthorpe were still in this game, the next score could be crucial. On 47 minutes Hales won another scrum just in the visitor's half. In a planned move, Jones fed Bown who dummied outside passing inside to centre Andy Robinson. He split the defence to score.

Hales were in control and attacked at will. Another scrummage on 60 minutes saw the Hales pack take again win possession. Thirteen phases of play took them within five yards of the line.

From a scrum Bown rounded the inside centre for a try which he converted for a 26-3 lead. Jordan then went over for his second try of the game.

Scunthorpe scored a consolation try before the bonus point win.

Halesonian Guy Field finds himself heading into the Scunthorpe defence during the match

Albion ace Mulumbu gets medal

ALBION'S Youssouf Mulumbu picked up a medal as DR Congo ended their African Nations Cup campaign on a high with a penalty shootout victory against hosts Equatorial Guinea in the third-place play-off.

Neither side could find a goal in regulation time at the Nuevo Estadio de Malabo so the match went to penalties.

And after Equatorial Guinea missed their first two spot-kicks, Cedric Mongongu converted DR Congo's fourth to earn the Leopards victory and a third-placed finish.

The match took place two days after violence marred Thursday's semi-final between Ghana and Equatorial Guinea.



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SPORT

No netting
Under-21s settle for
scoreless draw
Page 39

Must win
Old Hales come up
with the goods
Page 39



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Tividale trample all over Tulips

Spalding Utd 0 Tividale 2
TIVIDALE continued with their impressive away form with a disciplined and well deserved victory at high-flying Spalding United.

The Tulips were on a 15-game undefeated run in Evo-Stik Division One South stretching back four months and started the game in impressive form when Adam Jackson sent a 25-yard drive high and wide after seven minutes.

Tividale went ahead on 24 minutes when a Foster free-kick was headed down by Richard Huckfield and Jordan Archer turned and volleyed home past Tulips keeper Michael Duggan.

The Lincolnshire outfit went in search of an equaliser and Thurlbourne forced Tividale keeper Charlie Price into a save from 12 yards after the visitors failed to clear their lines.

On 66 minutes Spalding's chance of getting back into the game went when Adam Jackson was given a straight red card for a wild challenge on Tividale right-back Chris Field.

On 76 minutes another Thurlbourne free-kick was deflected wide before Tividale sealed the points as Duggan dropped a Tividale corner and Huckfield forced the ball over the goal line.

Tividale almost scored a third in stoppage time.

Whitehouse in Team rescue

**St Martin's 3
Team Dudley 3**

STEVE Whitehouse volleyed an 89th-minute equaliser to give Team Dudley a share of the points against St Martins.

The promotion-chasing visitors were 2-0 up after 21 minutes of the West Midlands Division One match, thanks to headed goals by Daniel Graham and Shawn Melusi.

Mitch Blackham gave Dudley a chance with another headed goal from James Hill's free-kick a minute before the interval, and six minutes after the break Ryan Spittle tapped home to level the scores after Hill's shot from edge of box was saved.

Melusi got his second in a goalmouth scramble to restore Saints' lead in 64 minutes, but Whitehouse came to the rescue to make the final score 3-3.

Saido and Brown could be new strike force

Albion 2 Swansea 0

THE Baggies produced their best performance so far in Pulis's short reign to claim a richly deserved victory over a talented Swansea side.

And amid the drive, determination and sheer hard work that was the cornerstone of the win, The Hawthorns will hope it witnessed the start of a potent partnership between Saido Berahino and Brown Ideye.

The forwards each claimed a goal and an assist and showed signs of an understanding that the Baggies have been lacking so desperately all season.

Football

The Baggies made a more purposeful start after dismal openings to their previous two games, when they found themselves 2-0 down early on.

They took a while to create their first chance, but when it arrived from a set-piece it took a fine save from Lukasz Fabianski to keep them at bay.

There was a rare attack for the visitors on 25 minutes when Jefferson Montero burst down the left and got the better of

Craig Dawson but his cross was diverted wide by Bafetimbi Gomis under pressure from Gareth McAuley.

The Baggies continued pressing and released Brunt on the overlap a couple of minutes before the break but he opted to shoot and sent his effort well over with Berahino and Ideye screaming for a cross.

The opening chance of the second half fell to Swansea's Federico Fernandez, who met a corner from Shelvey but produced a wayward shot.

It looked like being a frustrating evening for the hosts until the hour mark, when

the Baggies broke the deadlock. Substitute Stephane Sessegnon's first act was to feed Berahino, who moved the ball inside to Ideye, whose first touch was good. Ashley Williams made a tackle but the ball broke fortunately to Ideye and he responded with a fine finish to beat Fabianski.

Ideye looked like a man revitalised and a surging run won a corner that almost brought him a second. Albion's performance had merited a second goal and it arrived on 74 minutes. Berahino exchanged passes calmly with Ideye and then bent a wonderful, right-footed finish inside the post.

Five-star Craig is on form

**Dudley Town 1
Sporting Khalsa 6**

A five-star performance by Sporting Khalsa striker Craig Bannister increased his side's lead at the top of the West Midlands League.

Bannister plundered a second half hat-trick on top of two goals in the first half as the visitors completed a comfortable win.

A combined effort saw a great flick by Bannister finding Simeon Townsend who rifled a shot in from an angle just wide of the post.

Marvin Nisbett – a willing and productive presence on the right wing all night – set up the chance which was finished in style by Bannister.

On 36 minutes Bannister doubled the lead, firing a shot from the edge of the area.

The second half Mike Perks grabbed the third for Khalsa on the hour.

Dudley's evening got worse when Bannister completed his hat-trick with a fine finish.

Four minutes later, Darren Hand grabbed a consolation for Dudley.

But Bannister bagged another pair in the dying stages.

Search for boss as Lambert axed

VILLA club owner Randy Lerner has removed Paul Lambert.

Former Tottenham manager Tim Sherwood and Real Madrid's highly-rated English assistant Paul Clement were immediately installed as the front-runners. And United States head coach Jurgen Klinsmann, was also said to be in the frame.

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YELTZ PUT DENT IN TITLE HOPES

Halesowen Town 2 Buxton 1

HALESOWEN'S impressive run of form continued with another spirited performance to topple title-chasing Buxton.

The Yeltz soon put the Bucks on the back foot as Iyseden Christie and Tom Tonks both went close before a ninth-minute cross from Aaron Griffiths was turned over his own bar by Jamie Green.

Christie then latched onto Kris Green's deep cross to rattle the Buxton post in the 12th minute and Tonks controlled well in the 28th minute before dragging his shot wide.

The Yeltz deservedly took the lead a minute before half-time as Danny Bragoli headed a Tonks corner back across goal for Ben Haseley to convert from close range and get his side on the scoreboard.

Delightful

Halesowen doubled their advantage after an hour when the tireless Aaron Forde played a delightful forward pass through for leading scorer Christie.

Christie sidestepped his last man and fired home his 16th goal of the season with a low drive.

The goal-frame saved Buxton again in the 66th minute when Bragoli won possession down the right and his cross was met by Joe Hull's header, only for the ball to rebound off the crossbar much to the relief of the visitors.

Home goalkeeper Matt Sargeant tipped a 72nd-min-

Football

ute overhead kick from Buxton substitute Mark Reed over the bar and then earned praise when he somehow kept out Ash Palmer's 81st-minute header with the help of the post.

But Greg Young eventually headed Buxton's consolation goal from Liam Hardy's cross with the last action of the game deep in stoppage time.

The Yeltz, now stand unbeaten in seven league games, have moved up to ninth place in the Evo-Stik Premier table.

There was a solemn moment before the match when a minute's silence was held before the kick-off in memory of former Halesowen groundsman and committee member Phil Lloyd, who sadly died earlier in the week.

Halesowen Town: Sargeant; K Green, Griffiths, Forde, Hull, Tilt, Charlton, Tonks, Christie, Haseley (Thompson-Brown 84), Bragoli.

Subs not used: Kettle, Turner, MacKenzie, Pearson (GK).

Referee: Mark Howes.

Attendance: 507.



Halesowen's Joe Hull and Danny Bragoli putting pressure on the Buxton defence

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